Trade and Industry

7 November 1975

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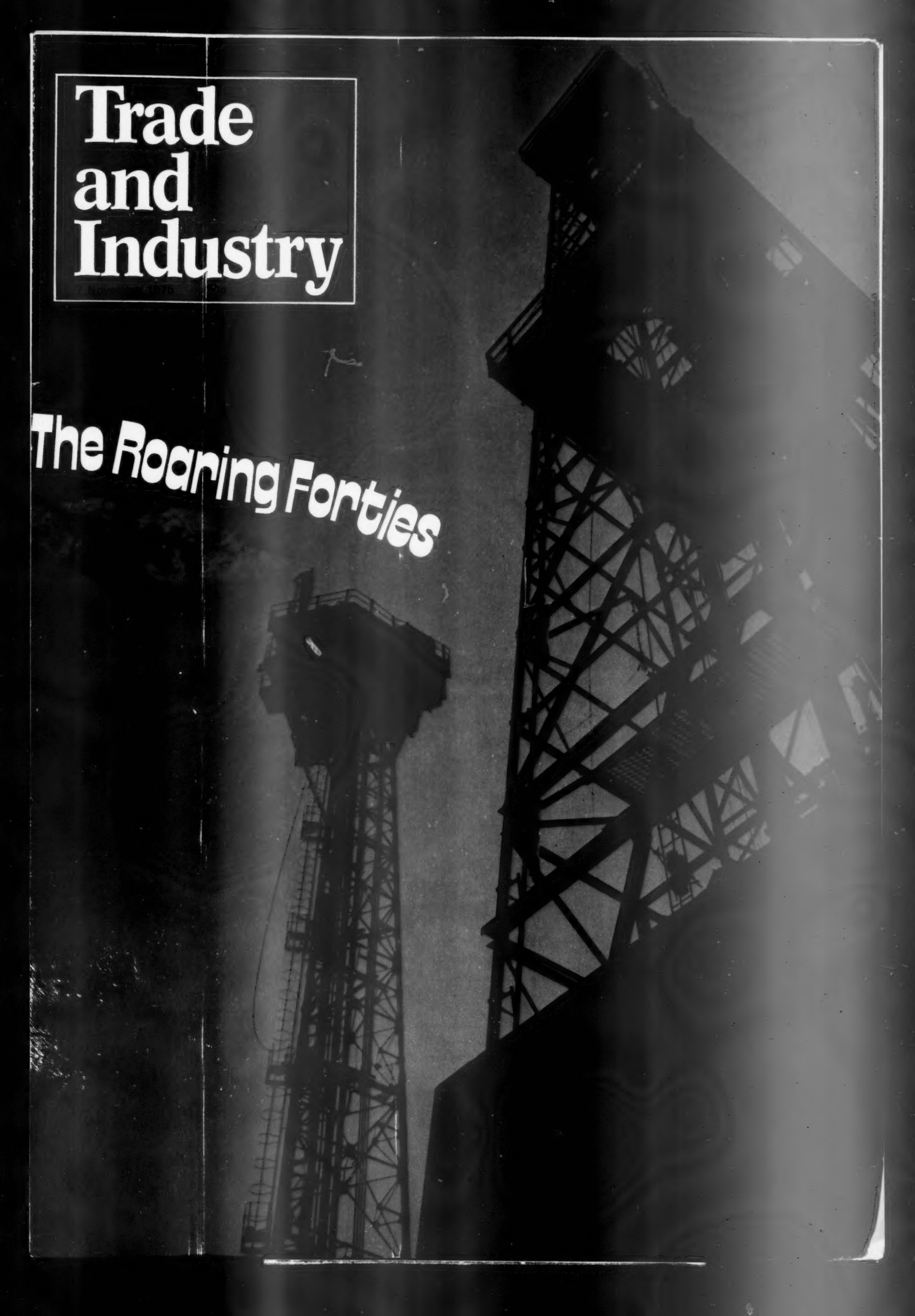

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Trade and Industry

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News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Flaring gas from Graythorpe 1 production platform in BP's Forties oilfield in the North Sea symbolises a major step in Britain's offshore oil industry. On Monday the Queen pushed the button in the field's control room near Aberdeen to inaugurate the flow from Britain's first major oilfield. In two years the Forties field alone should provide about a quarter of our oil needs.

Trade and Industry

Incorporating the Board of Trade Journal

Volume 21. No. 6.

Pages 321 to 384. 7 November 1975.

Price 20p. Net subscription post inclusive, £15.34

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Subscriptions: HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. 01-928 6977 ext. 472

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'An approach to industrial strategy' – paper by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Industry

Government proposals for developing a long-term industrial strategy were presented to a meeting of the National Economic Development Council on 5 November in a paper jointly prepared by Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. The text of the paper is published below.

Foreword by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Industry

The British people face immense short-term economic problems in unemployment, inflation and the balance of payments deficit. These problems have arisen at regular intervals throughout this century, though rarely in a combination quite so intractable as at present. The exceptional difficulties of Britain's position in the economic recession which grips the whole world is due in large part to the fact that the performance of British industry since the war has been steadily deteriorating under successive Governments in comparison with its competitors. So while we tackle immediate problems, we must also get to grips with the long term weakness of British industry, and relate short term solutions to the requirements of this task.

The task we face is – nothing less than to reverse the relative decline of British industry which has been continuous for many years. It is not something we can achieve overnight. The full benefits will only emerge in the long term. But we must start the process now.

The attached document sets out the Government's proposals for developing a long term industrial strategy. We believe that any approach to an industrial strategy must satisfy two conditions. First, it must be realistic and flexible. Our proposals involve a careful analysis of the performance and prospects of individual industries which will be continuously adjusted as experience grows and circumstances change. This analysis does not itself constitute a strategy; it provides a flexible framework within which strategic decisions can be made. Second, it must engage the co-operation and drive of both management and labour in both the private and public sectors. The Government emphasises the importance of sustaining a private sector of industry which is vigorous, alert, responsible and profitable. It intends that the public sector should exhibit the same qualities. We intend to achieve the necessary co-operation through regular discussions with representatives of both sides of industry, both at sector and at company level. The decisions which follow the analysis must be made by companies, unions and Government.

The first results of this approach were reflected in the Government's recent measures to encourage investment on a selective basis. The measures to help investment were chosen after the sort of sectoral analysis which is set out in this paper. They are moreover related to the problems immediately ahead, since they are primarily intended to remove obstacles to the growth of some of our key industries as the world economy recovers. We shall keep the effects of these measures under review and we shall not hesitate to take any further steps that may be necessary, consistent with our overriding objective of conquering inflation. As we begin to develop a new industrial strategy we shall increasingly be able to plan our short term measures within a longer term industrial framework so that short and long term measures reinforce one another.

'An approach to industrial strategy'

Introduction

Our prime objective must be to become a high output-high wage economy. This can only be achieved by improving our industrial performance and raising the growth of our productive potential.

2 Our unsatisfactory economic performance since the war reflects in large part our failure to deal effectively with our industrial problems by comparison with our competitors. The Government is introducing powerful new instruments to tackle these problems, in particular planning agreements and the NEB. These, and the other weapons in our armoury, cannot be used to purposeful effect unless we have a soundly based strategy for manufacturing industry.

3 We need such a strategy also as a guide for manpower planning. In some sectors of industry the pressures of international competition will force some shedding of labour. In others, technological improvements in productivity may mean that as modernisation proceeds, the same or a larger output can be produced with a smaller labour force. It is therefore essential to develop a coherent industrial strategy so that action can be taken in good time by Government and companies to expand capacity and increase employment in sectors with good prospects, or in others to take defensive action where this is necessary. Manpower policies like training, re-training, and encouragements to mobility must be geared to this strategy.

4 The National Economic Development Council has held a series of discussions about the need for more effective industrial planning. At the August Council meeting the Government undertook to produce a paper setting out a new approach to industrial strategy which could then be fully discussed by all the parties. This paper sets out the approach which the Government considers likely to be the most realistic and fruitful. It is not a strategy but a programme for developing a strategy which will place responsibility on Government, on unions and on management for improving our industrial performance.

Background

5 Manufacturing industry accounts for about 30 per cent of our output and employment and over 80 per cent of our visible exports. Its health is of vital importance to our national economic performance. Our manufacturing industry has not done as well as its competitors. In particular it has not responded adequately to changes in the pattern of world trade and suffers from structural rigidities which show themselves particularly in bottlenecks both of manpower and components in the early stages of economic upturns. The reasons for our poor performance by international standards have been exhaustively analysed and discussed, not least in the Council and the Economic Development Committees. There is no universal agreement on them. Some important factors, such as an over-valued exchange rate and excessive international responsibilities, may now be less serious. Others, such as a limited supply of labour for manufacturing industry to draw on, are bound to affect Britain more deeply than some of her competitors. But whatever weight may be given to one or the other the main relevant factors are clearly interrelated. They are thought to include:

Investment	5.1	a low rate of investment
	5.2	inefficient use of capital, which has resulted in a relatively poor return on new investment
	5.3	poor choice of investment
Labour	5.4	inadequate development of a manpower policy and the consequent regional and sectoral shortages of skilled labour.
	5.5	low labour productivity reflecting poor management, inadequate consultation, restrictive practices, overmanning and disruption by industrial action.
	5.6	attitudes to productivity and labour mobility based on views about appropriate pay and tax structures which reflect long-standing attitudes to relative pay in industry.
Government	5.7	sharp and frequent changes of economic regulators to meet the conflicting needs of economic and social priorities, which make it difficult for companies to plan ahead.
	5.8	pre-emption of resources by the public sector and by personal consumption to the detriment of industry's investment and export performance.
	5.9	Government intervention in the pricing, investment and employment policies of the nationalised industries.
Finance	5.10	a declining rate of industrial profitability.
	5.11	imperfections in the capital markets mainly at the medium and longer term ends.
	5.12	a capital market which does not give priority to the needs of industry.

6 There is no reason to believe that these problems will be solved automatically. Indeed, international factors are likely to make them more difficult – as the developing world sets up its own manufacturing capacity, there is increased competition from low cost producers, and pressures build up which could affect both our terms of trade and the security of supply of our foodstuffs and key raw materials.

Elements of an industrial strategy

7 It will be impossible to tackle these problems without action by all parties concerned, Government, management, unions and the financial sector. We must therefore develop an agreed national strategy for industry on a long term basis. Such a strategy must involve:

7.1 the better co-ordination of policies affecting the efficiency of industry. This will require us to indentify the industrial implications of the whole range of Government policies. The feed-back of information from planning agreements with companies will be of particular value in this respect.

7.2 the more effective use of the instruments of industrial policy and the deployment of financial assistance to industry. Both planning agreements and the NEB will be important here.

7.3 ensuring that industry, both public and private, is able to earn sufficient profits on its investment to spur managements to expand and innovate and to provide them with the internal finance on which to base investment. Adequate sources of external funds are also vital: some will be provided through the National Enterprise Board and some through Finance for Industry, but it will also be essential that the market should be able to meet the needs of industry.

7.4 a more effective manpower policy, including measures to provide a better supply of skilled manpower for growth industries and to cope with the human problems of people transferring from contracting to expanding industries. Training and retraining will be crucial here, both in coping with the problems of the present recession and in enabling people to meet the needs of a re-oriented British industry. The MSC and its agencies will have an important part in this.

7.5 the improvements in planning, both in industry and by Government, which will flow from systematic and continuing tripartite discussion of the likely prospects of individual industries, allied to greater disclosure of information at company level, particularly, but not exclusively, in planning agreements.

Above all, we must get away from policies of confrontation, and work together in the national interest towards agreed objectives.

8 For its part, the Government will have to continue maintaining a balance between economic and social objectives which often have conflicting implications. Nevertheless, the Government intends to give greater weight, and more consistently than hitherto, to the need for increasing the national rate of growth through regenerating our industrial structure and improving efficiency. For the immediate future this will mean giving priority to industrial development over consumption or even our social objectives. There is no other way of developing the industrial base on which the Government's whole programme of economic and social reform depends. The Government will have to ensure the proper co-ordination of macro-economic and micro-economic policies since success will depend on a complex variety of factors needing support at national, industry and firm

Royal opening of Britain's first major oilfield

The Queen, watched by BP chairman Sir Eric Drake, pushes the button on Monday to start the Forties field oil flowing to Grangemouth. Among 1,000 guests at the ceremony at Dyce, near Aberdeen, were the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet, including Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. Development has cost nearly £750 million. The Forties field will have four production platforms, each higher than the Post Office Tower in London, feeding 240 miles of pipeline from the field in the North Sea to the Grangemouth refinery on the Forth. The Forties field is a blend of private and public enterprise. In Scotland it has provided work, directly and indirectly, for about 50,000 people.

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level. We recognise the need to maintain an adequate level of demand and employment if both sides of industry are to possess the confidence required to carry the necessary changes through.

9 The Government must take the initiative in developing the industrial strategy, but the main task of seeing that it brings higher productivity in British industry must fall on unions and management. Any major increases in productivity will require not only more investment better directed, but also improvements in working methods, including the reduction of overmanning and restrictive practices, and by transfer of workers into expanding sectors with a promising future. This will call for a major effort in training and retraining workers, together with effective co-ordination of the whole range of policies affecting the ease with which people can change jobs. The problems this poses are discussed in the paper being circulated separately to the Council by the Secretary of State for Employment and will clearly call for wholehearted co-operation by the trade union movement at national and at plant level. The Government favours a much greater involvement of workpeople at all levels in industrial decision-making. Similarly management will need to be alerted to opportunities at home and overseas and great efforts must be made to bring the level of efficiency and profitability of the poorer companies up towards that of the best. Thus at national level the TUC and the CBI will have an essential part to play together with the Government, in evolving a common strategy for improving our industrial performance.

10 One response to the problem might be for the Government to set in hand a new National Plan. The likelihood is that any plan which erected a single complete and mutually consistent set of industrial forecasts and targets would rapidly be falsified by events and have to be discarded. This would once again discredit the process of industrial planning in this country as did previous attempts, which failed largely because they were based on unsustainable economic assumptions, and paid too little attention to the constraints affecting individual industries and companies. On those occasions our national response to changes in circumstances which robbed us of early and visible success was to abandon the plan in question rather than to revise it and try again like the French or Japanese. Accordingly we find ourselves without any co-ordinated strategy to provide a consistent basis for Government and industry to take their decisions.

11 This time a more flexible approach is proposed. We aim to provide a framework in which to consider the likely prospects of the most important sectors of industry over a period of five or more years ahead and to indicate their role in meeting our overall economic objectives. In developing this approach it will be essential to take full account of likely developments in world trade and in the competitive position of British industry relative to other countries: the effects of EEC membership, and in particular of the removal of internal tariffs, will be important factors. We hope this framework will be discussed extensively with both sides of industry as part of the development of the closer and more positive relationship between Government and industry to which the Government is committed in the White Paper on the Regeneration of British Industry. The framework will need to be reviewed and if necessary adjusted, at regular intervals, to take account of changing circumstances. This would be related to what the Government intends to do in planning agreements with major companies as well as to Government planning of public expenditure and nationalised industry investment.

The framework

12 The first step is the provision of a systematic statistical and analytical framework. Although this can ultimately be broadened to take account of other useful information, including work currently in hand in the National Economic Development Office, we propose that the framework should initially rest on two main elements:

12.1 An analysis of past performance of individual sectors of manufacturing industry based on a number of statistical indicators such as size, growth rate, trading performance, import content, growth of world demand and importance to other sectors. A key factor would be the competitiveness of the industry at home and abroad. This process will help identify the importance of individual sectors in achieving various objectives.

12.2 The implications for different industries and sectors of alternative medium term growth assumptions, using as a starting point the Government's medium term projection.

13 The Government will make an initial assessment on the basis of this statistical framework, taking full account of a wide range of qualitative factors, such as the scope for improving on past performance, the potential for import substitution, the development of new technologies, the minimum economic size of plants, the security of future raw materials supplies (for example our self-sufficiency in energy in 1980), the impact of EEC membership and the scope for Community action, the emergence of new overseas competitors and industrial objectives and policies of other Governments.

14 The aim will be to identify those sectors most important for achieving our economic objectives both for the Government's purposes and for those of private industry. This will entail a sector by sector analysis to identify those which are likely to have most potential and those which may be expected to present problems. The most important industries will first be grouped in the following way:

industries which, judging by past performance and current prospects, are intrinsically likely to be successful;
industries which, though they fall short of the first category, have the potential for success if appropriate action is taken;
industries whose performance (as in the case of component suppliers) is most important to the rest of industry.

It is of course clear that any industry can contain sub-sectors and individual firms whose prospects may be better or worse than the sector as a whole. Indeed some of the biggest disparities in performance at present are found within particular sectors rather than between them.

THE USE OF THE INDUSTRIAL FRAMEWORK

15 This analysis is not in itself an industrial strategy. It is a starting point for the development of the Government's own industrial planning and a framework for discussion and action by the Government and by both sides of industry at national, industry and company level. At each level, the objective must be to tackle the problems listed in paragraph 5 above, which lie at the root of our inadequate industrial performance since the war.

National level

16 At the national level, there is a wide range of Government policies affecting industry. Industry will want closer consultation on medium term macro-economic prospects. We have made a start here by circulating to NEDC the main components of the Government's medium term projections and we shall be ready to consider ways of carrying this further to complement the discussion of sectoral prospects which will take place on a regular basis as indicated in paragraph 25 below.

17 For the Government's policies to operate effectively Government should be able to assess their effects on individual sectors of industry and take account of these effects in policy formation. The proposed medium term industrial framework should help by providing an analysis of the factors which affect the prospects for various sectors, including the impact of possible changes in the Government's general economic policies.

18 This sectoral framework can only be a part of the Government's total strategy for industry. Quite apart from the policies for selective intervention (discussed further below) industry will want from the Government an assurance that it accepts as a major objective of economic policy the ability of industry to earn a reasonable rate of return on capital. The Government has made it clear that it accepts the importance of sustaining a vigorous, alert, responsible and profitable private sector of industry. It is equally important that public industry should be able to draw on retained surpluses for its own investments.

Industry level

19 There will need to be extensive discussions of the analysis of industrial prospects with each of the industries identified within the groupings described in paragraph 14 above. The EDCs will have a great deal to contribute to this, and they will be able to draw upon the work they have been undertaking for the NEDC's Medium Term Industrial Review. The structure and operation of the EDCs' machinery may have to be examined in the light of this new role.

Other sectoral organisations such as trade associations may also contribute to the discussions.

20 The indicators which NEDO are preparing (NEDC(75)69) will be valuable at this stage in assessing the scope for improving performance within each sector. Publicly owned industries will have an important role to play in improving our overall industrial performance since it is essential that labour and capital resources should be efficiently used in the public as well as the private sector. Just as they will be brought into the planning agreements system, the nationalised industries will come within the scope of the strategic planning process. This will, for example, enable the long term plans of the nationalised industries and their supplier industries to be related to each other and to the whole industrial framework. But since most of the nationalised industries are utilities rather than manufacturing industries, most of them are not, with the notable exception of steel, likely to feature in the grouping of paragraph 14.

21 These detailed discussions are likely to throw further light on possible constraints to improved performance and on the industrial implications of the Government's economic projections and decisions. They might also lead to specific recommendations for action by companies, trade unions and Government, although the selection of sectors will not imply any commitment that the Government will necessarily intervene. However, the analytical framework should provide the Government with the basis for determining priorities for action in specific areas of particular importance to the economy, within the inevitably limited resources available. This will contribute to the development of priorities for co-ordinated intervention and support not only by the Government itself but also by public agencies such as the NEB and the Manpower Services Commission.

Company level

22 The Government will also discuss the industrial projections and their implications with individual companies, primarily though not exclusively in the context of planning agreements. It is the individual decisions taken by management and unions at the level of the firm which will in aggregate determine the UK's industrial performance. Planning agreement discussions should in due course provide a valuable means of influencing a significant proportion of the UK's manufacturing industry. While some firms will have opportunities which are not available to others in a given sector it would be the aim to improve the overall standard of a sector by raising the standard of average companies towards that of the best.

23 At the level of the firm, the Government will seek to provide support where this is justified in individual cases – eg assistance for key investment projects – and the NEB will have a role in promoting changes in the management and organisation of individual companies as well as in securing the desired restructuring of a sector. In deciding whether individual companies merit support the Government will have regard to the criteria in NEDC(75)67, including the need to ensure that the company concerned is likely to be viable in the longer term. The framework and the development of a strategy will provide a comprehensive foundation for Government policies both for companies in growth sectors and for companies in sectors with deteriorating prospects. It will also provide the framework within which the system of planning agreements will operate and a basis for the strategy of the NEB. The Government's commitment to take full account of the agreed strategic framework and the more detailed knowledge of the Government's thinking, which results from the process of providing it, should allow companies to plan ahead with greater confidence.

Procedure

24 As has been made clear, the Government views the development of an industrial strategy not as a single finite operation but as a continuing and evolving process, with arrangements for regular review after the initial discussions and agreement.

25 In a normal year the Government envisages that the operation would move through three stages on the following lines. First, in the late summer, material would be put to the NEDC which would consist of three main parts:

25.1 a paper setting out the main components of the Government's medium term projection;

25.2 a paper identifying the most important sectors grouped in accordance with paragraph 14 and indicating the criteria which had been used for this purpose. As the 30 or so sectors would have been chosen primarily for their importance to the economy, it is unlikely they will change significantly from year to year, although as experience of the system develops it may be possible to add further criteria for selection. Nonetheless the Government expects that the Council will wish to comment on the criteria chosen for any one year's review;

25.3 separate annexes for each of the sectors listed. These would contain figures, where available, for the appropriate disaggregated part of the Government's overall medium term projections. They would also include a descriptive profile of the industry which would draw attention to its strong and weak points and in particular would attempt to identify areas where further trends were likely to differ from those in the past.

26 Second, subject to the Council's endorsement of the Government's approach to the year's review, material in paragraph 25.3 would be remitted to individual EDCs, or where no appropriate EDCs existed, to tri-partite committees which would be set up ad hoc at least in the early stages. It would be in the EDCs, or ad hoc committees, that both sides of industry together with Government would attempt to identify areas for improvement and possible action.

27 Third, the results of these discussions would be pulled together, perhaps by an official group representing the Government, TUC, CBI and NEDO and submitted to the Council at about the turn of the year. This report would then form the basis for an important discussion by the Council on industrial policy in general, and in particular on areas highlighted for action and improvement, at a time of the year suitable for influencing the Government's thinking on macro-economic policy.

28 None of this would in any way prevent or inhibit discussions in the Council or the EDCs at other times of the year on issues related to industrial strategy or the particular aspects of industrial performance. But it would provide a framework which would relate NEDC's main discussions on industrial matters to the Government's own timetable. This would not preclude separate discussions with trade associations or similar bodies.

29 At this initial stage of development, the timetable for consultations must be treated flexibly. As explained above, the preparation of a sound statistical base entails a good deal of work, because much of it is breaking new ground and requires the application of considerable resources to develop techniques. However, the aim is to produce an experimental analysis for consid ration by the Council early in the New Year. After discussion in the Council, the detailed examination at sectoral level could begin, although again at this stage it might need to be regarded as to some extent experimental. Progress might usefully be reviewed by the Council about the middle of next year when revised medium term projections should become available. If we are to stick to this timetable the establishment of any additional groups that may be necessary will need to be set in hand quickly.

30 The Government recognises that the proposals in this paper deal largely with questions of method and procedure and that the Council cannot take a final view about the merits of the new approach until it has had the further paper we hope will be ready by the turn of the year. They therefore invite the Council to agree that the further work that has been described should be undertaken and should be brought forward for discussion early in the New Year.

31 When these proposals have been put into practice, the Government will be in a position to examine the problems of a wide range of industries and companies against a coherent framework. In playing its part in helping to deal with these problems the Government will use the whole range of its powers. It will be able to frame its general economic policies so as to take account more systematically of the needs of industry. The NEB will be able to provide finance for companies in key sectors. Selective financial assistance will be used to encourage and assist viable projects and the sectoral discussions should enable appropriate schemes, like those already adopted for the ferrous foundries, machine tools, clothing, and textile industries, to be developed. Public purchasing policies will be used constructively in order to develop the export potential of appropriate industries. The MSC and its agencies will have a major role to play both in meeting the needs of growth sectors for suitable trained manpower and in easing the problems arising from industries shedding labour. All these instruments must come into play immediately wherever they are appropriate. The Government is confident that they will make a still more valuable contribution to the necessary improvement of our industrial performance as the new strategy develops. But the main responsibilities will lie with both sides of industry in the sectors and firms involved.

Additional measures to stimulate industrial investment

As announced by the Secretary of State for Industry following the NEDC meeting on 5 November, the Government has given careful consideration to further measures to stimulate industrial investment during the current recession. The scheme announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget in April for selective assistance under the Industry Act to be made available to accelerate deferred capital projects has been sufficiently successful to justify a further extension.

The objective of this scheme has been to encourage companies to bring forward major projects which have been planned but shelved or postponed. The build-up of interest has been encouraging, with a number of companies already having been offered assistance, and with a growing number of cases under examination and new inquiries.

Three extensions of the scheme will take place. First, the qualifying date for projects to commence under the present scheme will be extended up to the end of September 1976. Second, the qualifying limit on the capital cost of projects will be reduced from £1 million to £500,000 including working capital. Third, an additional £20 million is being made available for modernisation projects (previously excluded) which meet the other qualifying conditions.

Criteria

In summary, the scheme will embrace projects which satisfy the following criteria:

1 The project should be for new investment or modernisation (or both), and the capital cost, including working capital normally exceed £500,000.
2 The project should be a net addition to the firm's capital investment programme in this country, ie it would not take place or would be deferred but for the Government's assistance.
3 The project should be commercially sound, and lead to an improvement in the UK balance of payments.
4 Construction work on the installation of plant for the project should be planned to commence before the end of September 1976, and projects which would be completed early would be given priority.

Terms

The Government support under this scheme will be the minimum considered necessary. Assistance will be in the form of loans at concessionary rate of interest not greater than such as are available under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 (where appropriate an interest free period may be considered), or the equivalent in interest relief grant. The taking of equity will not be a condition of assistance for it. This assistance will be available for projects throughout the country under Section 8 of the Industry Act.

YOU'RE WRONG, SHOPKEEPER. THE GOODS WERE FAULTY AND WERE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY. YOU MUST REFUND THEIR MONEY!
I'M SORRY -HERE'S YOUR MONEY BACK. I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE ANOTHER CAR IN STOCK.
THINKS NOW I CAN GET SOMETHING ELSE.

Part of a cartoon from one of six worksheets on the general subject 'Thinking about Shopping' prepared for children jointly by the Office of Fair Trading, the British Standards Institution, the Media Resources Centre of ILEA, and the Consumers' Association. The four-page leaflets answer the questions: Where do we buy? Why do we buy? Which one shall we buy? How shall we pay? Who can help us? and What else should we think about? The worksheets, intended mainly for children aged eight to 13 for use in schools, are provided with teachers' notes. The object is 'to help children to make informed decisions when buying, to understand what can influence them to buy, and to consider their responsibilities to one another and to the community'.

Price display Order for drinks

The Price Marking (Drinks on Premises) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1737), which requires prices of drinks on licensed premises to be clearly indicated, was published on 3 November.

The Order, which comes into effect on 1 December, will be enforced by local weights and measures authorities – in England and Wales, the metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties and the London boroughs; in Scotland the regional and islands areas.

Drinks may be sold in widely different types of establishment and this is reflected in the Order by means of general provisions.

Copies may be obtained from HM Stationery Office or from any bookseller, price 18p.

Former Minister heads Advisory Committee

Lord Brown of Machrihanish, Minister of State at the former Board of Trade from 1965 to 1970, has been appointed Advisory Committee Chairman for the Government's £20 million machine tool industry scheme.

He will preside over his first meeting on 12 November. Lord Brown, formerly Mr. Wilfred Brown, is a member of the Industrial Development Advisory Board and a former chairman of the Glacier Metal Co. Ltd. He has wide engineering industry experience.

The Committee was set up to advise the Department of Industry on the scheme, which offers financial assistance to encourage modernisation and development in the machine tool industry. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced the scheme on 5 August. It is being implemented under Section 8 of the 1972 Industry Act.

The members of the Advisory Committee are: Harold Burton, National Economic Development Office; Tom Burton, a former vice-chairman of Cincinnati Milacron Ltd.; Mr. G. R. Lloyd, national organiser, AUEW, and member of Machine Tools EDC; Mr. J. W. H. Morgan, assistant managing director, GEC Ltd.; Mr. J. G. Salkeld, Binder Hamlyn Singleton Fabian, chartered accountants; Mr. J. I. Westwood, production director, G. Clancey Ltd.

Ship-repairing industry will be publicly owned

The following is the text of a letter from Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, which was delivered on 30 October to Mr. C. H. Baylis, Director, Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association:

'Thank you for your letter of 20 October, letting me have the note setting out the reasons why the Association would like the Government to reconsider the decision to take ship-repairing into public ownership under the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill.

'When I met the SRNA, I made it clear that it was very unlikely that the Government would be prepared to change its mind. I can now confirm that the Bill, which will be reintroduced early next session, will be unchanged on this point.'

Employment of solicitors under general retainers

As a matter of general practice, the Department of Trade considers that authorities and retainers to solicitors from liquidators of companies in compulsory liquidation, should be in specific terms. It is recognised, however, that in a large complex liquidation it may be an embarrassment for the liquidator to obtain specific sanction from the Court or his Committee of Inspection on each occasion that he wishes to employ a solicitor and in those circumstances he may wish to obtain sanction to employ a solicitor under a general retainer.

The Department asks liquidators to make use of general retainers in exceptional cases only and in such cases, liquidators are also requested to give written instructions to the solicitor to deal with particular matters arising which are to be covered by that general retainer, and in matters of urgency where instructions have been given orally, they should be confirmed in writing. If these requests are observed by liquidators, it should avoid any unnecessary difficulties arising on the taxation of bills of costs.

Solicitors employed by liquidators may obtain from the Department of Trade (Insolvency Service) at 2/14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8LL, a copy of the relevant part of a leaflet (Form CD9) which is issued to members of Committee of Inspection for their information and guidance, and which deals generally with the employment of a solicitor by a liquidator.

Resources should go to industries with best prospects, says Eric Varley

'To improve our industrial performance, available resources should go to those industries and companies which have the soundest performance or the best prospects,' Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, told an Anglo-American Conference in London on 30 October.

'This must be the first principle of Government aid to the private sector as it must be also of the administration of publicly-owned industries.

'Our overriding objective,' continued Mr. Varley, 'must be that British industry should compete more successfully in meeting the requirements of home and overseas markets. Otherwise we continue with inadequate growth and problems for the balance of payments. Our industry, public and private, must produce goods and services of a kind and at a price which satisfy the buyer, whether at home or abroad.'

In all cases where financial assistance is sought or entertained the Government had to assess whether the aid is going to be effective – whether, supported by the aid, the project will be viable.

'Public attention,' continued Mr. Varley, 'is naturally focused on what are called rescue cases – firms or even whole industries which suddenly plunge into trouble and become the subject for national conjecture and debate. All countries have them. But rescue cases are only a small proportion of the issues that come to me for attention and action. In fact the number of new investments which we assist vastly exceeds the number of rescue cases – 1,200 to 24 in the last financial year.'

Mr. Varley went on to say that the Government needed to secure a better understanding of industry and its problems. 'There is a need to associate industry with Government policy and decision-taking. A greater degree of agreement as to where we should go and how, is vital.'

A new approach to such a strategy, formulated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and himself was to be the subject of discussion between the Government and both sides of industry in NEDC on 5 November. 'Our approach will be based on a careful analysis of the performance of a wide range of sectors of industry.

'Taking account of this, and of the prospects for the economy in the medium term, we hope to establish with both sides of industry a greater understanding of where we are strong industrially and where there are problems to be coped with.'

Urgent need to agree priorities for investment and growth

'It is urgent that we get down now to agreeing national priorities for investment and industrial growth,' Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State for Industry, told the Institute of Marketing in Newcastle on 31 October.

'That is the reason the Government initiated next week's Chequers' meeting with the aim of laying the basis for a regular discussion on the prospects and problems of different industrial sectors. It will focus attention on those industries which can most profitably contribute to increasing exports and saving imports – or which have a key role to play in industrial developments. This is the sort of exercise that many of our competitors carried out successfully a generation ago.

'The Government has already done a great deal to help industry,' Mr. MacKenzie pointed out, 'particularly in view of the very tight economic constraints it has had to work under since returning to office.'

In addition to the scheme for allowing stock appreciation against tax – worth about £1.3 billion to industry during the present financial year – the Government had also relaxed the price code a year ago. 'And it has made available £180 million to accelerate selective investment projects and industrial modernisation schemes, including industries that will be the key to any industrial expansion like the ferrous foundry and machine tool industries, with additional financial help for the construction industry.

'But it is clear that we can't leave it at that, and simply sit back and wait for better times,' continued Mr. MacKenzie. 'We need to plan further ahead than before, so that even shorter-term decisions by Government and industry can be taken against a systematic framework of our longer-term needs.

'The aim must be to create a planning framework which can help industry to anticipate, and react faster to changes in the pattern of world trade. And at the same time, through a growing process of consultation, introduce the greater sense of common purpose in industry that is such a striking feature of countries with outstanding industrial relations records like Sweden, West Germany and Japan.

'All this will involve changes in the traditional approach of much of British industry, and is likely to take several years before it becomes fully effective. But it is essential that we don't make the present economic climate an excuse for delaying starting on identifying our immediate industrial priorities.'

British Airways-European Division has established wheel testing bays at some of the major turnround points on its route network. Using Eddyprobes, aircraft wheels can be checked for freedom from cracks. The Eddyprobe portable eddy-current instrument (pictured), produced by Inspection Instruments (NDT) Ltd., London, has a wide range of applications from crack detection and measurement to the sorting of metals.

Department of Trade warns on agency commission on air fares

The Department of Trade has asked the 86 airlines which operate scheduled services into and out of the United Kingdom for confirmation that they will apply approved rates of agency commission which were effective from 1 November 1975.

In a letter to the airlines, the Department says: 'Many airlines increased their commission rates to match those previously offered by Pan Am, and the Department expects they will now reduce their commission to the approved rate, with effect from the same date as Pan Am.'

This follows Pan Am's decision to notify all its agents in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom territories that they are conforming with the Department's requirements, and will no longer pay retail commissions higher than 7½ per cent of the applicable published air fares (plus an additional 2½ per cent for the sale of inclusive tours) for sales made from 1 November.

The Department has had extended discussions with Pan Am and the US authorities aimed at restoring order among the confusion of commission rates paid by airlines to their selling agents. Excessive rates of commission have been offered by many airlines, in what has amounted to a 'commission war'.

The International Air Transport Association is meanwhile continuing to seek a world-wide solution to this problem, and many airlines pin their hopes on their finding agreement at the conference which has been taking place in Cannes.

The Department first wrote to the airlines in support of airline operators' efforts to eliminate the discounting of air fares and payment of excessive agents' commission, on 15 August 1975.

By its decision in the Pan Am case on 29 July 1975, the Court of Appeal confirmed that there is no limitation on the Department's powers under the Civil Aviation Act to impose relevant conditions on airlines operating scheduled services into and out of the UK – including the level of fares and the commission to agents.

International interest in aviation safety

More than 70 delegates from 10 different countries attended a safety seminar at the Civil Aviation Authority's Fire Service Training School, Stansted Airport, from 20-24 October. The delegates, who were welcomed by Michael Vivian, CAA Controller Safety, heard a number of distinguished specialists on a wide range of subjects concerned with safety.

Organised by the Authority's Chief Fire Service Officer, John Lodge, the five-day programme covered safety in its three main areas – the prevention of accidents by design and operating procedures, the investigation of accidents and the development of regulations, and advice to ensure the safety and regularity of operations.

Twenty-six speakers dealt with specialised subjects, including fire safety and protection of aircraft in the design, manufacture, in-flight situations, fuel, cabin materials, hazardous cargo restrictions, hangar fire protection for the Concorde, and ground-handling operations. Subjects concerning fire service activities at aircraft accidents included sessions on accident investigation co-operation, protective clothing, extinguishing agents, police incident control and telecommunications. Staffing matters were also considered, including medical and manning standards and the training of men employed for aerodrome fire-fighting and rescue duties.

Speakers of various disciplines ranged from a senior medical officer, airline pilots, aircraft engineers, telecommunications engineers, and electrical and mechanical engineers as well as scientists and senior fire officers. The regulatory bodies were represented by speakers from the US Federal Aviation Administration, the Accidents Investigation Branch of the Department of Trade, and the Civil Aviation Authority, which provided speakers from several of its directorates and branches.

Among the audience were visitors from Australia, USA, West Indies, the Middle East and four European countries.

Planning agreements would have an important part to play said Mr. MacKenzie. The closer relationship between national economic and company planning, a major feature of outstandingly successful post-war economies like France and Japan, had already helped to convince many managers in industry that joint planning of this kind played an essential role in a modern economy.

'There is probably still, with some exceptions, a greater reluctance to accept the role of trade unions in these arrangements. But here too – just as there is a growing realism amongst working people about the role of profits in industry – so I think there is an increasing realisation amongst managers and employers that a greater involvement of people on the shop-floor in decisions that importantly affect their working lives is now inevitable. No matter how much careful planning is done, or new investment made, it will be of little use unless it can win the consent – and the commitment – of those finally responsible for doing the work.'

Department of Industry Regional Offices

As from 3 November, the Eastern and the London and South Eastern Regional Offices of the Department of Industry have moved to: Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London, W14 8QH (telex: 25991, Answer back DTI Charles Ldn). The telephone number of the London and South Eastern office is 01-603 2060, and that of the Eastern office is 01-603 2070.

Interim changes in domestic air fares

The Civil Aviation Authority has approved interim changes in domestic trunk and related route fares from 1 November following new short-notice applications made by British Airways, BCAL, BMA and Dan-Air.

The interim fares approved are:

	£	
London – Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick, Belfast		
Tourist	22.00	one-way
Tourist (off-peak)	16.00	one-way
Tourist (excursion)	32.00	return
Glasgow – Bournemouth/Southampton and Prestwick or Edinburgh – Bournemouth/Portsmouth-Southampton		
Tourist	22.00	one-way
Excursion	32.00	return (Glasgow routes only)
London – Aberdeen		
Tourist	29.00	one-way
Excursion	36.00	return
London – Inverness		
Tourist	31.40	one-way
Excursion	36.00	return

The airlines' applications were made to

avoid uncertainty on fare levels that would result from British Airways' intended appeal against the Authority's decision of 23 October. The above-stated fares will apply until the Secretary of State for Trade comes to a decision on this appeal. During this period, in accordance with the airlines' applications, there will be no Gatwick 'discount' fares between Gatwick – Belfast/Edinburgh/Glasgow or Prestwick or Instant Purchase Excursion fares between Gatwick – Manchester and Gatwick – Glasgow/Edinburgh.

New price limits for butter

As advised in last week's *Trade and Industry*, the statutory maximum retail prices for butter were increased by 1½p per ¼ lb on 31 October. The new limits, contained in orders laid before Parliament on 28 October by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, are the result of the higher prices that manufacturers will be paying for milk and the higher costs of imported butter, following the recent devaluation of the Green Pound from 27 October. The new prices are:

Category of butter	Pence per ¼ lb
Butter produced in the UK (other than blended)	22½
Other EEC butter (other than blended)	22½
New Zealand butter (other than blended)	20½
Blended butter of any variety and of any origin	21½
Any other variety (other than blended)	22½

Prices in the shops will generally remain below the new maximum levels. The extent to which they may rise continues to be governed by the requirement that distributors' profits on butter – the percentage difference between their buying and selling prices – should not be increased.

The new order is the Butter Prices (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1975 – SI 1975/1740 available from HMSO (price 8p).

The revised prices take account of the Secretary of State's decision (which will be subject to review) to offset for the present reductions in the Community share of the butter subsidy as a result of devaluation.

Price limitation programme

Reports which appeared last week of a meeting on 28 October between Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and members of the CBI and the Retail Consortium to begin discussion of the price limitation programme announced in July as part of the Government's attack on inflation, implied that local authority rates were to be included in the package.

This is not so.

In response to a question at the meeting about whether action would be taken on rates as part of the price restraint programme, the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection said: 'Increases in rates next year are expected to be less than in the current year as a result of the Government's counter-inflation policy and a nil rate of growth in the field of local authorities' expenditure.'

Counter inflation – a turning point

The Government hopes to supplement its present price surveys with a programme of price restraint in the new year, said Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 31 October.

Speaking at the Leo Kramer Conference on Britain's industrial future, Mr. Williams said: 'As we come up to the 100th day of the new attack on inflation wage restraint is a reality. For the first time in a year our rate of inflation has dropped. Our Price Commission, which speaks for itself and not for the Government and which knows more about prices and inflation than anyone else, showed last week in its latest report that there were clear signs of a turning-point in the battle.

'But in the immediate future, the year up to next August which is covered by our counter-inflation strategy, we shall maintain our system of price control in substantially its present form. Beyond that lie options and it would be folly for me to speculate about precisely what kind of price control is likely to be in operation a year from now.

'The most encouraging feature of the present policy is that it carries the support of the British people. Every government which has tried to defeat inflation knows that it cannot be done without the goodwill of the workers, of employers – indeed the public as a whole. To abandon price controls now would be an incredible folly which would, overnight, disillusion the public and destroy their support for the strategy.

'In the next few months the people of Britain have to be convinced of the Government's overriding determination that this time inflation will be beaten. To help establish this conviction of the Government's determination we have now introduced widespread price surveys to help the housewife decide where to spend her money. In the new year we hope to supplement this with a programme of price restraint over a range of goods and services agreed between industry and government. This will include nationalised industries. If we can keep the support of the people of Britain during these next 12 months, we shall certainly make the crucial break into the inflationary spiral that the Chancellor has promised.'

Renewal of Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act

An Order renewing Sections 1 to 8 of the Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973 for a further year after 30 November 1975 was laid before Parliament on 29 October.

The Order, the Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973 (Continuation) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1705), was made by Order in Council on 22 October: it is subject to affirmative resolution by both Houses of Parliament.

The Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973 was passed during the 1973/74 energy crisis. It enables the Government to control the production, supply, acquisition and use of petroleum and petroleum products, electricity and other fuels and to control the price of petroleum and petroleum products.

Existing measures taken under the Act are:

control of the maximum retail price for paraffin;

directions to oil companies on the holding of stocks to fulfil the Government's international obligations under the European Community Treaties and the International Energy Agreement

energy conservation measures (heating and lighting restrictions and lower speed limits)

relieving the British Gas Corporation from a statutory obligation to meet demands for large new or additional supplies.

Continuation of the Act will allow these measures to continue in force.

Recommendations on fixed offshore installation standards

Recommendations on the standards to be used for the design and construction of fixed offshore installations have been made by the Advisory Committee on Fixed Offshore Installations.

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is considering the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Kirby Laing. The recommendations have in the meantime been circulated to designers, contractors and oil

operating companies with an interest in fixed offshore installations for their information.

The committee's recommendations to the Secretary of State are as follows:

> The basis for the design and construction of fixed offshore installations in concrete for use in British waters should be British Standard Code of Practice CP 110 – 1972 'The Structural use of Concrete', in conjunction with the FIP Recommendations for the Design of Concrete Sea Structures, second edition, November 1974.
> The basis for the design and construction of fixed offshore installations in steel for use in British waters should continue to be the Guidance document issued by the Department of Energy, together with its associated appendices listing codes and recommendations.
> These codes and recommendations may in general be deemed to give the necessary background information and when used as the basis for design, with the proper exercise of engineering judgment, should be acceptable to the Department of Energy.

Amendments to the Department of Energy's publication 'Guidance on the Design and Construction of Offshore Installations' are expected to be issued shortly and will reflect these recommendations. The Department's certifying authorities have been informed of this.

Government providing extra capital for BNFL

The Government have decided to provide £25 million additional capital for British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. during the financial years 1975-76 and 1976-77.

This was announced on 28 October by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, in a written Parliamentary answer to James Sillars (South Ayrshire), who asked 'what additional capital the Government will make available to British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.'

Mr. Benn replied: 'The Government have decided to provide £25 million additional capital for this company during the financial years 1975-76 and 1976-77. It will take the form of:

> (a) in 1975-76, £10 million to be made available by way of an issue of shares taken up by the Atomic Energy Authority;
> (b) in 1976-77, £5 million by way of a further issue of shares to the Atomic Energy Authority, and £10 million by way of loans from the National Loans Fund.

'Pending the presentation of a supplementary estimate for the £10 million equity in 1975-76, it will be necessary to have recourse to the Contingencies Fund.'

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. is a company wholly owned by the Government, whose shares are held on the Government's behalf by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

The National Loans Fund, one of the Government's two main accounts at the Bank of England, is the channel for Government borrowing and lending, except for loans charged directly on Votes. Loans made by the Government to nationalised industries or other borrowers are made out of the Fund, and repayments of the loans or interest on them go back into the Fund.

IMCO to have new headquarters building

IMCO is to have a new headquarters building on the Albert Embankment, if negotiations are satisfactory. This was announced on 3 November by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping.

Addressing the Assembly of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO) in London, the Minister reviewed progress since the last Assembly and set out what is to be achieved in the next two years.

'My Government is gratified that two of your conventions of 1969 vintage have reached maturity this year. I refer of course to the Intervention Convention and the Civil Liability Convention. Associated with the latter is the Fund Convention 1971 which we will be in a position to ratify shortly.

'The Safety of Life At Sea Conference 1974 paves the way for approving technical changes within a reasonably fast timetable, with provisions for speedy but unrushed consideration, and safeguards for dissent. That was a useful step forward and we hope it comes into force soon.

'We are most anxious that the 1972 Collision Regulations should receive the necessary number of acceptances and begin to bite as soon as possible. Let it be remembered also that the 1969 Amendments to the 1954 Pollution Convention – surely the biggest stride forward IMCO has made in the field of pollution – still require a few more acceptances.

'A most important step was the work done by the Maritime Safety Committee on substandard ships. I do not want to pre-empt the discussions of this body by referring to the matter in any detail, but I am convinced that putting the spotlight on the control provisions of the safety Conventions can do much good; I sincerely believe that the procedures under consideration will help to improve the safety record of the world's merchant fleet – which is one of the paramount reasons why we are assembled here.'

The Minister went on to urge other governments to accept the amendments to the IMCO Council, adopted by the extraordinary session of this Assembly in 1974, which enlarged its membership by a third and opened the Maritime Safety Committee to all Member States.

'These provisions are indeed important because they recognise the need for change to meet the growth of membership and because they will enable more Member States to participate in two of the most important organs of IMCO.'

He welcomed the increased growth of membership, now more than 90, particularly the rapid increase in membership of developing countries.

'This growth is a clear indication of the high esteem in which the work of IMCO is held . . . For the future, the organisation will need to cater for the needs of the increasing pace of change in shipping technology, the growing dangers of pollution and the special requirements of developing countries.

'A consequence of the growth of the Organisation has been that for the third time in fifteen years the headquarters has outgrown its premises. As members will recollect, at the last Assembly the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report to the Council . . ., we have participated fully and actively in the Council's deliberations which have led to the conclusion that the best solution is the construction of new premises designed to meet the special needs and growth of the Organisation as foreseen for the long term. We are willing to contribute to most of the cost on much the same basis as we have contributed to IMCO's accommodation in the past. After careful consideration of a number of alternatives we share the view of the Council that subject to a satisfactory outcome of negotiations, the Organisation can be very suitably and centrally sited on the Albert Embankment with a fine view across the River Thames to our Houses of Parliament and, perhaps even more importantly, within walking distance of the finest of all our governmental institutions, the Department of Trade. The new premises will include the special conference facilities which the Organisation so badly needs.'

Work starts on Government factory for Hayle

The English Industrial Estates Corporation have announced that work has started on the construction of a 900m² (10,000 sq. ft) advance factory for the Department of Industry on the Guildford Road Industrial Estate, Hayle, Cornwall.

A contract worth about £90,000 has been awarded to Tarmac Construction Ltd. Architects for the project are Geoffrey Bazeley and Miller-Williams, and the quantity surveyors are J. H. Snellgrove and Partners.

Work was started at the end of October and the premises should be ready for occupation by May of next year.

Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be addressed to: Mr. V. T. Brooks, Department of Industry, Phoenix House, Notte Street, Plymouth PL1 2HF (tel. Plymouth (0752) 218914), or Regional Director, Department of Industry, 1 The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB (tel. Bristol (0272) 291071).

Small Firms Information Centres promotions

A seminar at Southampton

A total of 375 local businessmen and women attended the recent seminar 'Business Efficiency – the Key to Success' held in Southampton by the Small Firms Information Centre for London and the South East. The event was organised by the Centre in co-operation with the local Chamber of Commerce and the Southampton Reference Library with the basic intention not only of updating knowledge of business techniques but introducing as many local experts to the business community as possible.

Ted Gale, the Manager of the London Centre, has been delighted by the welcome his efforts have received. He has already received inquiries about the possibility of similar events being organised in other parts of the region, including the London Area. This is being seriously considered.

An encouraging aspect of the Southampton seminar, stated Mr. Gale, was the fact that the response came from right across the board and that those attending included retailers, manufacturers and representatives of the service industries and professions.

The decision to invite predominantly local speakers was justified by the high standard maintained throughout the series. The cut and thrust of discussion between the Hampshire Crime Prevention Officer, Chief Inspector Cutcliffe, the managers of local branches of Williams and Glyn's and Midland banks (Barry Johns and Brian Palmer) and the audience set a lively pace from the start. This continued through the second evening when two members of staff of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, Phillip Allerton and Brian Hockey, gave much sound advice. The third evening was no less successful and a large audience fully appreciated talks on various accountancy subjects by Mr. Gardiner of Tooling Products Ltd., Alec Hardyman, of Thornton Baker Associates, and Michael Hanscombe, of ICFC-Numas.

John Bolton (left), Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry on Small Firms, who opened the 'Help for the Small Firm' exhibition in Leicester, with the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Mrs. L. Marriott, and Norman Lott, East Midlands Regional Director, Department of Industry.

An exhibition in Leicester

Representatives of over 600 firms attended a two-day 'Help for the Small Firm' exhibition in Leicester's Holiday Inn, recently. It was organised by the Small Firms Information Centre (Department of Industry) at Nottingham and the School of Management at Leicester Polytechnic. On the final night 120 people attended a lecture on capital transfer tax.

Encouraged by the earlier success of the Nottingham and Northampton initiatives, the Nottingham Centre readily accepted an approach made by the School of Management of Leicester Polytechnic for a joint exhibition to be held in Leicester.

The exhibition was opened by John Bolton, Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry on Small Firms, which recommended the establishment of the Small Firms Information Centres.

Contemplating in retrospect the third exhibition of this type organised by the East Midlands SFIC, Ray Parr, the Centre Manager, states that there were a number of lessons to be learned which, hopefully, could be applied to any subsequent versions that might be considered. There can now be little doubt that by providing a focus for a wide spread of organisations that exist to help small firms confirms the reasoning of the Bolton Committee that 'small businessmen are confused by the profusion of services, commercial and otherwise' which exist to help them and that 'there is a need for an information and referral service to help businessmen on the sources of help and advice available and to offer guidance as to which is the most appropriate for particular purposes'.

'Exhibitions such as those at Leicester earlier this month serve a useful service by publicly demonstrating the role of the SFIC as opposed to its more usual passive profile. The value of co-operating with a local academic institution or Chamber of Commerce (as in the case of Northampton) is inestimable, providing as it so often does a deeper knowledge of local conditions, needs and interests that, in future, one can envisage the Centre acting more as the catalyst rather than the sole progenitor. Thus, from the early prototypes one can sensibly now consider a settled production run.'

Some of the audience at one of the three evening meetings of the 'Business Efficiency for Small Firms – the Key to Success' seminar held at Southampton. More than 90 per cent of those who attended came from Southampton firms.

Now there are two Queen's Awards.

The Queen's Award to Industry Scheme has been reviewed and in future there will be two separate Awards entitled:

"The Queen's Award for Export Achievement" and

"The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement."

The first of the new style Awards will be made in 1976 and the lists of Award winners will be announced on the Queen's personal birthday, 21st April.

General arrangements and selection procedures remain basically the same as before but eligibility for the Export Award has been extended to certain classes of indirect exporting and to export agents.

For full details about eligibility and for application forms get in touch with The Secretary, The Queen's Awards Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, Telephone number 01-222 2277, telex 27366.

Any industrial unit based in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, producing goods or providing services, may apply irrespective of size.

Please send in your application as soon as possible.

The closing date for the 1976 Awards is 30 November 1975.

Technology News

Central laser facility for research scientists

The Science Research Council has now announced that it will provide central laser facilities for use by university research scientists. It is part of the Council's policy, as announced in the recent annual report, to supply expensive pieces of equipment, for general use, in fields where the great majority of investigators work.

The Government has given approval for the provision of a high power laser and ancillary equipment for use by university and polytechnic research groups. The facilities will be set up at the Council's Rutherford Laboratory at Chilton, Oxfordshire.

The equipment will be a versatile neodymium glass laser system and comprehensive diagnostic and experimental equipment costing altogether about £1 million. There will also be a full programme of laser development on the basis of which further facilities may be provided. The total cost of the provision and operation of the facilities over the next six years is estimated at £5.7 million.

The necessary staff will be provided by the Rutherford Laboratory to set up and operate the facility, to undertake the study of new laser systems and to provide the engineering and administrative support for the university groups. Plans for the projects were drawn up by a steering committee under the chairmanship of Professor D. J. Bradley (Imperial College, London) and arrangements are being made for close consultation with potential users to continue.

The principal scientific objectives of this basic research programme are to create and study in the laboratory plasmas generated by laser compression; to study non-linear interactions of intense laser radiation with matter; and to develop more efficient and new high power lasers for future experiments in these and other fields.

The quality of research in this field in the UK has enjoyed an international standing and many of the experimental techniques now finding widespread application overseas were developed in this country. The new facilities will ensure that UK scientists can continue to make a significant contribution.

One of the moveable tanks containing treated wastewater that forms part of Britain's Advanced Wastewater Treatment pilot plant at Coleshill in the English Midlands.

Bearing on design

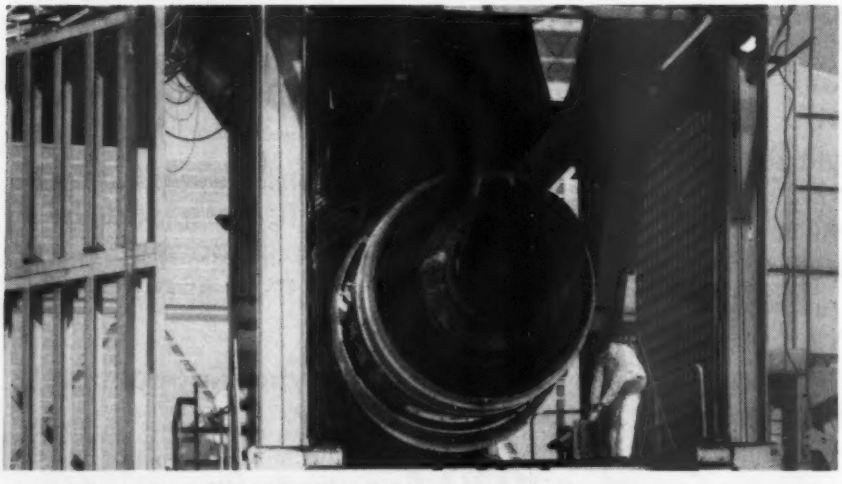
A one-day course in 'Bearing Selection and Design' will be held at the National Centre of Tribology, Risley on 22 January 1976.

The aim of the course is to familiarise practising engineers with the use of the Engineering Science Data Sheets produced by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for the guidance of design engineers with bearing problems. The lecturers, all experts in this field with wide experience of applying their knowledge to the practical solution of bearing problems, will be:

Professor J. Halling, Professor of Engineering Tribology, University of Salford, who will speak on choice of bearing type; Mr. R. E. Leckenby, National Centre of Tribology, lecturing on calculation method for journal bearings; Dr. E. J. Robbins, National Centre of Tribology, on dry rubbing bearing – a guide to material selection; and Dr. R. Wilson, Shell Thornton Research Centre, on bearing materials failures.

This course is a repetition of those held in 1970 and 1973. The course fee, including data sheets, luncheon and refreshments, will be £29 plus VAT.

Programme and application forms are available from: A. J. Walton, National Centre of Tribology, UKAEA, Risley, Warrington WA3 6AT. Tel. 0925 31244, ext. 3564.



One of the world's most powerful and advanced transportable X-ray machines is prepared for the taking of radiographs of a running Rolls-Royce RB211 jet engine. The technique is applied to all new designs of Rolls-Royce engines. X-radiography measures the clearances between moving and static turbine parts under a range of running conditions, an important stage in the development of new engine designs which speeds up the process of diagnosis and modification. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority has been carrying out radiographic work on all new Rolls-Royce jet engines since 1970 and the agreement has now been extended for a further two years.

Desulphurising iron

Bubbles in a water tank would seem to have little in common with making iron in a blast furnace.

However, this was the technique employed by Harwell to investigate a research problem submitted recently by Foseco. The company required a better understanding of its GALAG process for desulphurising blast-furnace iron.

Harwell scientists used a computer model of the process backed by a practical analogue system (using bubbles in water). Completion of the project involved specialists in heat transfer, computer programming, thermodynamics, modelling and chemical metallurgy.

As a result of the Harwell research work, Foseco now has the capability to recommend to any steelworks optimum conditions for the use of its GALAG process. Sales of their product (a magnesium-impregnated coke) have increased steadily since the study.

Safety monitors in mine shafts

Under an agreement recently signed with the National Coal Board, Lintott Engineering Ltd. of Horsham, Sussex, is to supply electronic monitoring and safety equipment for use in mine shafts.

All friction hoists are subject to rope slip, depending upon cage loading, weather conditions, the state of the winding drum and other factors. Normally, this is unimportant, and is corrected automatically. But occasionally it can be excessive and then there is a danger of the cage being higher up than is expected. In extreme cases, this can lead to the cage being inadvertently wound above the surface until it is forcibly halted, with risk of damage or accident.

Lintott's monitoring system provides positive warning in the event of a slip of this kind. A coil, completely encircling the shaft, is installed at a level corresponding to the position of the upgoing cage as it starts deceleration. The coil is connected to a detector unit which instantly produces an output signal, indicating the moment the cage has reached the detection zone. A second output from a drum contact indicates the estimated time when the cage should reach the detector zone if no rope slip occurs. The two outputs are compared in a logic unit which gives an alarm when the time difference is signficant.

The agreement allows Lintott to manufacture and sell the cage position monitoring system, which is protected by a British patent taken out by the NCB.

Another device supplied by Lintott Engineering is slack rope detection equipment. If a cage is prevented from descending or becomes jammed in the top of the shaft and rope continues to be paid out, a slack rope condition arises. If the cage then becomes free a dangerous drop could occur, which in extreme cases, could lead to a major calamity. The function of the slack rope equipment is to compare the amount of rope paid out from the winding drum with the movement of the cage. If the difference rises above a certain limit, the winder safety circuit is operated.

The equipment comprises a series of detector units fitted to the sides of the mine shaft, which signal cage movement whenever the cage is within the detection zone, a drum unit to measure rope travel and a comparator unit which compares the two measurements and trips a relay in the winder safety circuit when the limit is exceeded. The amount of slack rope is also displayed to the winding engine room operator.

Another important safety device is the auxiliary drive monitor. In the winding engine room the operator relies upon various indicators to show him the movement of the cage. These indicators are driven through couplings such as gearboxes and connector shafts, sometimes out of sight of the engine room. If any one of these couplings should fail it might be several seconds before it was noticed, long enough for an accident to occur.

The monitor works by comparing electrical pulses from the drum movement with pulses from connector shaft monitors. Visible and audible warning is given if the indicator is not functioning correctly.

Lintott also supply a cage landing speed recorder, specifically designed for use in the testing of winding engines and safety equipment used in mine and lift shaft operation. Pulses are generated by a drum unit which indicate the movement of the rope, and provide a velocity signal which is displayed on a chart. The recorder has applications in all cases where measurements of velocity, distance, time and acceleration are required in a graphical form.

Science Research Council Awards

The Science Research Council supports over half of the British full-time postgraduate engineering students. A new type of three-year studentship is now available under the Total Technology Scheme.

Students with a good first degree (first or upper second) or equivalent qualifications are eligible. Working experience brings additional allowances. There is also the possibility of industrial sponsorship which can bring the value of the award up to that of a normal salary.

Firms who may wish to consider sponsoring members of staff should write to the Total Technology Office, Science Research Council, State House, High Holborn, London WC1R 4TA.

Computer Aided Design Centre wins Swedish software contract

A software contract worth more than £40,000, won against strong competition from Europe and USA, has been awarded to the Department of Industry's Computer Aided Design Centre, Cambridge, by a Swedish electrical company, Allmanna Svenska Elektriska Aktiebolaget.

The contract, which the Centre's Electrical Engineering Group has secured, is to supply an interactive minicomputer-based graphics system for draughting work. ASEA is a large group developing and manufacturing technically advanced products and plants both on standardised and tailored basis.

The ability of CAD Centre to provide a software solution to their needs, both highly customised and open-ended in design and capable of being implemented on different types of minicomputers, was of particular interest to ASEA.

This latest contract again indicates how work at the CAD Centre is directed towards solving real engineering problems in partnership with industrial organisations. CAD Centre aims to develop and enhance its portable application independent software by employing such software modules in customised system building.

Further information: Head of Electrical Engineering Group, Computer Aided Design Centre, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HB tel. 0223 63125; Telex: 81420).

Mrs. Joke Verduyn having her helmet fitted at the Plymouth Ocean Projects diving school. Her husband was being trained as a salvage diver when she signed on for part of the course. The work, which involves underwater 'labouring' jobs such as laying concrete and digging holes in rock, is normally considered unsuitable for women. Apart from physical strength Mrs. Verduyn measured up well to the required standards and showed great tenacity and staying power.

Parliament

Monday, 27 October

Birmingham gas and electricity charges
Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if she would ask the appropriate consumer advisory council to investigate the 100 per cent increase in standing charges for gas and electricity introduced in September by Birmingham City Council.

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'I assume that my Hon. Friend is referring to the Heating and Rent (HARP) scheme, under which elderly tenants can spread their fuel costs over a year by making a fixed payment for heating, which is collected with the rent. The scheme is entirely optional and the Birmingham City Council is responsible for payment of the total cost of the fuel consumed under the scheme. I understand that the recent increases were made to reduce the substantial deficits that have arisen since the scheme was introduced in December 1973. The Price Commission have looked into them and have found no reason to intervene.'

Nationalised industries and the consumer
Mr. Douglas Hurd (Mid-Oxon) inquired if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection had yet received the report of the National Consumer Council on the work of the consumer consultative organisations concerned with the Post Office and the nationalised industries.

Mr. Norman Lamont (Kingston-upon-Thames) wanted to know if the Secretary of State was satisfied that consumers of nationalised industries' goods and services were adequately protected.

Replying to both questions, Mr. Williams said that in addition to the full range of consumer legislation, users of nationalised industries' goods and services had the benefit of assistance and representation from the industries' consumer councils. He had asked the National Consumer Council to report on consumer representation in the nationalised industries by 1 March 1976 and he would consider carefully any improvement it recommends.

Costs and prices
Mr. Toby Jessel (Twickenham) asked what was the percentage increase in the cost of living over the past 12 months, and Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) inquired what had been the increase in the retail price index over the past 12 months.

Answering both questions, Mrs. Williams stated that the retail prices index for September was 26.6 per cent higher than a year earlier. This represented a small decrease on the corresponding year-on-year figure for August and marked the first year-on-year decline for 12 months.

Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) wanted to know if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would now introduce further measures to control prices, while Mr. Stan Thorne (Preston South) asked what measures she proposed to take to prevent price rises for the consumer over the next six months.

'The present strict price controls are being continued,' said Mrs. Williams. 'They permit price increases only when they are justified by costs. A price freeze now would only put more jobs at risk since firms' margins, which are now little more than half the permitted reference levels set in 1973 would not allow them to absorb the additional costs themselves. The Government has undertaken to take further consultative action on the prices of products of special importance in family expenditure once it is clear that costs have decelerated sufficiently to allow such action to be taken without causing bankruptcies and unemployment.'

Mock auctions
Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint) asked if the legislation governing mock auctions would be amended so as to provide greater protection to the public against exploitation.

Mr. Williams answered: 'I have at present no plans to do so, but if the Hon. Member has any evidence of practices in this field not covered by present legislation I should be glad if he would let me know.'

Metrication and the consumer
Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) requested a statement on the progress being made towards the metrication of consumer goods.

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) wanted a statement on the programme for introducing metrication so far as it affects the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

Responding, Mr. Williams said that successive Governments had believed metrication to be in the national interest and that the process should be completed as soon as possible. His Department would continue to support the changeover. It had always been recognised that the metrication of consumer goods would follow that of industry but on the whole, progress in that sector would need to be quicker, if we were to fulfil our EEC obligation to phase out the general use of imperial units by the end of 1979.

Local prices monitoring
Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) inquired about the reaction of local authorities to the Secretary of State's proposals for local price monitoring.

Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester) asked how many local authorities had availed themselves of the grants available to them from the Department for the provision of price information.

To both these questions, Mrs. Williams replied: 'I am very pleased at the encouraging response. A total of 130 firm and provisional applications in respect of about 460 shopping centres have been received. 108 are from local authorities.'

Trade Description Act
Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked when it was expected that the proposals of the Director General of the Office of Fair Trading with regard to amending the Trade Description Act 1968 would be implemented.

Mr. Williams said the Committee under the chairmanship of the Director General which was reviewing the Act was still seeking

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Lord Beswick
Gregor MacKenzie
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Gerald Kaufman

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

comments on the proposals set out in its consultative document. When he received the Committee's final report he would consider the content and timing of any amending legislation.

Exemption clauses in services

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester) wanted to know when it was intended to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission on exemption clauses in services.

'I intend to introduce legislation to deal with exemption clauses as soon as possible after we have completed consultations on the proposals with the consumer, legal and business interests concerned,' answered Mr. Williams. 'I should be happy to send a copy of the consultative letter to any Member who may be interested.'

Price Code

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection was satisfied with the current price code, and if she would consider introducing legislation for a price freeze of essential commodities together with the publication of maximum prices to be charged, such price lists to cover a much wider range than solely subsidised foods.

'The Price Code is far from perfect,' said Mrs. Shirley Williams, 'but it does keep price increases down in line with increases in costs. To superimpose a price freeze on essential goods when costs are still rising would endanger the jobs of those who make them. However, I shall shortly begin negotiations with the appropriate representative bodies for a programme of selective price restraint on a range of goods of special importance in family expenditure. The programme will come into operation when it is clear that the pay limit is being effectively observed and cost pressure begins to ease. Imposing maximum prices on unsubsidised goods does little to keep prices down. I am however initiating regular price comparisons very widely on which will be based price lists showing where prices are lowest in each locality covered.'

Mr. Geoffrey Dodsworth (South West Hertfordshire) wanted to know the consequences for the Price Code of the report of the Sandilands Committee on inflation accounting.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'The Sandilands Committee have recommended that, if their proposals for the adoption of Current Cost Accounting are accepted, CCA should become the accounting basis of the Government's price control policy. The Government is studying the Committee's findings, and a statement will be made early in the new session giving the Government's views on the main recommendations of the report.'

Electricity board members

Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked what was the name of the new chairman of the Electricity Consultative Council for the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board area, and why the previous chairman Mr. C. F. MacKenzie of Caesnarfa, was not invited to continue his work for another term.

Mr. Williams answered: 'The new chairman is Mr. M. J. Moore. I have many factors to keep in mind when making such appointments; I have explained the position fully to Mr. MacKenzie.'

Mr. Jack Dunnett (Nottingham East) wanted to know if it was proposed to appoint further members to the East Midlands Electricity Consultative Council, and if so, when.

Ten persons had been invited to become members of this Council, said Mr. Williams, and it was hoped to raise its membership in the near future to 27.

Meeting the food trade

Mr. William Molloy (Ealing North) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, next expected to meet representatives of manufacturers and retailers associations of the food trades.

Responding Mr. Maclennan said: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend and I shall be attending a conference tomorrow organised by the Institute of Grocery Distribution and the Food and Drink Industries Council.'

Food subsidy expenditure

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry) asked what was the current annual rate of expenditure on food subsidies, while Mr. Ian Gow (Eastbourne) wanted to know the latest estimate of the cost of food subsidies in each of the two years ending 5 April 1977.

Mr. Maclennan said that the estimated cost of food subsidies in the current financial year was about £554 million. The cost in 1976/77 was expected to be of the order of £400 million (in 1975 price terms).

Mr. Patrick Mayhew (Royal Tunbridge Wells) asked what was the present annual cost of the bread subsidy.

The annual cost of the bread subsidy was estimated to be £79 million, answered Mr. Maclenan.

Firework accidents

Mr. Gwilyn Roberts (Cannock) asked what study had been made of the consultative document on firework accidents and if, in the light of this study, steps would be taken to reduce firework accidents.

'Some 60 organisations, representing a wide range of interests, have submitted their views,' said Mr. Williams. 'I am now holding urgent discussions with the industry and distributors' associations.'

Consumer advice centres in Cumbria

Dr. John Cunningham (Whitehaven) asked what response had been received from Cumbria County Council to the recent announcement that further money was available for the provision of consumer advice centres.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'I should be happy to consider any application from Cumbria County Council but I have not so far received one.'

Recommended retail prices

Mr. Norman Atkinson (Tottenham) asked if powers would be sought to make the Price Commission responsible for the approval or otherwise of manufacturers' recommended retail prices and their display on the product.

Manufacturers' recommended prices were not enforceable on retailers, explained Mr. Maclennan. The Director General of Fair Trading was considering the problem of claimed reductions from a recommended price.

Prices in public houses

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) inquired if steps would be taken to ensure that prices are displayed in public houses.

'I am happy to tell Hon. Members', replied Mr. Williams, 'that I made an Order under Section 4 of the Prices Act 1974 today which comes into operation on 1 December. The order which commands wide support in the trade and from consumers is expected to be laid and published next Monday.'

Price labels on books

Mr. Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) inquired if steps would be taken to prohibit the fixing of adhesive labels upon books where they were used to signify an increase in price.

Mr. Maclennan answered that it would not be appropriate. Books were exempted from the restrictions on re-pricing contained in the Price Code, since they were goods which were exempted from the restrictions on resale price maintenance by an Order made under the Resale Prices Act 1964.

Building societies and insurance

Mr. Robert McCrindle asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection was satisfied with the working of the agreement between the Office of Fair Trading and the building societies on insurance.

Mr. Williams said: 'I welcome the agreement reached with the Building Societies Association on the initiative of the Director General of Fair Trading, as a useful step towards improving consumer choice in a difficult area. As it has only been in effect for two months, it is too early to judge its effectiveness. However, I understand that the Director General is keeping its working under careful review and will not hesitate to seek any changes he considers necessary.'

Civil aviation policy

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he now expected to publish his White Paper on civil aviation policy.

'Quite early in the next Session,' replied Mr. Clinton Davis.

Protecting investors

Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he had any proposals to protect consumers from organisations in which they had invested money, but where the organisation had failed to take adequate steps to retain the addresses of the investors.

'I am not aware that any such problems have arisen for investors in company securities or unit trusts,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'If the Hon. Member knows of difficulties in these fields, I should be glad to receive details.'

Holiday Magic and Golden Chemical

Mr. John Lee (Birmingam, Handsworth) asked if winding-up proceedingss would be instituted in respect of the Holiday Magic and Golden Chemicals Companies.

Mr. Clinton Davis said he did not propose to institute winding-up proceedings against Holiday Magic (Great Britain) Ltd. On 27 August 1975 he presented a petition in the High Court for the winding up of Golden Chemical Products Ltd. The petition was heard on 20 October and it now stood adjourned to 1 December next.

Parliament continued

Telephone cable

Mr. John Parker (Barking, Dagenham) inquired whether telephone cable had been imported in the last three years from France for use in this country by the Post Office or any other organisation.

'Yes, Sir,' answered Mr. Deakins. 'Imports for 1973, 1974 and the first nine months of 1975 were £100,000, £26,000 and £41,000 cif respectively.'

Committee on industrial democracy

Mr. David Madel (South Bedfordshire) asked whether, in view of the delay in announcing the names of the members of the committee inquiring into industrial democracy, the intention of introducing legislation in the 1976-77 Parliamentary session had now been abandoned.

Mr. Shore replied: 'No, Sir. It is still my intention to introduce legislation within that Parliamentary session.'

Worker directors

Mr. Esmond Bulmer (Kidderminster) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would ensure that both sides of the argument within the trades union movement over worker directors were represented on his forthcoming Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend intends to ensure that the Committee consists of people with a wide range of relevant experience and background and that a reasonable balance is maintained between the different views represented on it. It will be open to organisations and individuals of all views to give evidence to the Committee and I hope that they will do so.'

Air fare discounting penalties

Mr. McCrindle wanted to know what penalties were proposed for airlines amd travel agents and others who engaged in fare discounting in violation of recommended IATA rates.

The enforcement of IATA rates was, in the first place, a matter for IATA itself, said Mr. Clinton Davis. Where Government-approved fares were involved, the Civil Aviation Authority had power to prosecute for breaches of the terms of the licences of British airlines, and the Department of Trade could act similarly against foreign airlines operating into the United Kingdom. He was advised that the travel trade associations were supporting measures to stamp out discounting and were considering their own enforcement methods.

NEB stationery costs

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how much money had been spent on stationery by the National Enterprise Board by 20 October 1975.

Mr. MacKenzie said that by 20 October 1975 the Organising Committee for the National Enterprise Board had spent £1,794 on stationery goods of all descriptions other than Rank Xerox photostat paper.

Crude oil imports

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) wanted to know what was the total import of crude oil in 1972, 1973 and 1974, and at what cost, respectively.

In response, Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM, CRUDE AND PARTLY REFINED FOR FURTHER REFINING

	Million tons	£ million cif
1972	105	947
1973	113	1,336
1974	112	3,852

Mr. Robert Woof then asked what was the current deficit as a result of price increases of imported crude oil.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The increase in the price of crude oil had an immediate and direct impact on the value of our imports. However, there were other, less direct, consequences including the rise in import demand by the oil-exporting countries as a result of increased revenue and the adverse effect on economic activity in the industrial countries. As a result it is not possible to make an accurate estimate of the full impact of the oil price rise on the current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments.

'An examination of the change in the value of our imports of crude oil gives some indication of the direct effect. In the third quarter of 1975 these imports were valued at £800 million compared with £382 million in the third quarter of 1973. Between these periods the price of imported crude oil rose from £8 per ton fob to nearly £36 per ton fob (partly reflecting the depreciation of sterling) and there was a decline in volume from 30.1 million tons to 22.5 million tons.'

EEC and the textile industry

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he would seek special treatment for the textile industry in the EEC, on account of the fact that United Kingdom manufacturers were involved in higher costs than those of EEC competitors in respect of health and safety legislation.

Mr. Kaufman explained that he had been asked to reply. 'We have no evidence that our health and safety legislation involves the textile industry in higher costs than those in other Member States. If the Hon. Member has such evidence and has any proposals for special treatment, we would be glad to consider them.'

State services orders

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would issue a general direction to the nationalised industries under his control to place orders for goods with British firms operating in areas of high unemployment such as the West Midlands. Mr. Lee also inquired if the Secretary of State would give a general direction to the Post Office to secure supplies from British manufacturers with plant operating in areas of high unemployment such as the West Midlands in preference to overseas suppliers.

'No', said Mr. MacKenzie. 'The great majority of orders placed by the two nationalised industries for which I have responsibilities are with British firms. It would not be possible for the industries to confine their purchases to areas of high unemployment. Both the industries operate the Government's General Contracts Preference scheme, which is intended to facilitate the tendering for public contracts by firms in the Development Areas and in Northern Ireland.'

Electric taxi

Mr. Frank Hooley inquired if there would be any Government funds for the development on a commercial scale and for export of the prototype electric taxi built by Lucas Industries.

Mr. Kaufman said that if an application for support were received from the company it would be considered in the normal way.

European Regional Fund

Mr. Tom Ellis (Wrexham) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how many applications for aid from the European Regional Fund had been received by him from: (a) local authorities, (b) other public agencies, and (c) private agencies. Also he wanted to know how many applications for aid from the European Regional Fund received by his office had been submitted by him to the Fund's administrators in each of the categories: (a) local authorities, (b) other public agencies and (c) private agencies.

Mr. Ellis then inquired what was the total value of applications for aid from the European Regional Development Fund submitted by him to the Fund's administration in each of the following categories: (a) local authorities, (b) other public agencies and (c) private agencies: also what was the total value of the applications for aid from the European Regional Development Fund received by his offiec from each of the categories: (a) local authorities, (b) other public agencies and (c) private agencies.

Finally, Mr. Ellis asked what proportion of the applications for aid from the European Regional Development Fund submitted by his office fell primarily into each of the following categories: (a) advance factory building, (b) infrastructure improvements, (c) retraining and (d) aids towards autonomous regional long-term development.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'The Department of Industry is responsible for forwarding all the UK's applications to the Regional Development Fund. As regards the applications which the Department itself prepares, the Department has consulted a number of public agencies and private companies whose investment projects appeared likely to qualify under the Fund Regulation. As a result applications requesting some £8 million of assistance from the Fund have been submitted to the Commission. 197 individual projects are covered by these applications. Of these about 60 per cent are advance factories and 40 per cent are private industrial investments. The Department of Industry's applications do not include local authority or retraining projects.'

Further questions were put by Mr. Ellis asking on what date did the Secretary of State submit to the European Regional Fund applications for aid from the fund for particular projects

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The Department of Industry is responsible for forwarding the UK's applications to the European Regional Development Fund. These have been sent in two instalments: the first on 22 August and the second between 6 and 8 October. These applications are designed to take up in full the UK's share of the Fund for 1975.'

Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the total

value of applications for aid from the European Regional Development Fund submitted by him to the Fund's administrators, and from which section and authority they had come.

'The Department of Industry is responsible for forwarding all UK applications to the European Regional Development Fund,' replied Mr. MacKenzie. 'Applications are prepared not only by the Department of Industry but by a number of the other departments, including the Department of the Environment, the Welsh and Scottish Offices and the Northern Ireland Departments. My Department has prepared and submitted on its own behalf applications covering 197 projects involving about £8 million of Fund assistance. About 45 per cent of the assistance requested relates to advance factories built for the Department and about 55 per cent of the assistance relates to private industrial investment projects.'

Imported footwear and textile goods

Mr. Mike Noble (Rossendale) wanted to know what minimum quality standards, if any, were laid down for imported footwear and for imported textile goods.

'None,' replied Mr. Kaufman.

Nuclear power programmes

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked the Secretary of State for Energy what steps he was taking to ensure that there would be adequate control at executive level and general continuity of effort in the development of the United Kingdom's nuclear programme.

Mr. Eadie said: 'All such steps as are necessary, in co-operation with the responsible organisations, for the completion of the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor construction programme, the launching of the 4,000-MW SGHWR programme and the implementation generally of the Government's policy on nuclear power.'

Mr. Wilson also inquired how many development contracts for prototype components of the SGHWR had so far been placed, and when, according to latest estimates, a start was likely to be made on the construction of the first SGHWR power station.

'The National Nuclear Corporation and their operating subsidiary, the Nuclear Power Company, are responsible for the conduct of the SGHWR development programme,' replied Mr. Eadie. 'They have placed contracts for specific items of development work and are considering orders for prototype components. Discussions currently in hand with the electricity boards should clarify the timetable for safety clearance of the detailed design by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the start of construction.'

Nuclear energy R and D expenditure

Mr. Gordon Wilson asked the Secretary of State for Energy if, in the light of the drop in electricity consumption throughout the United Kingdom, he was considering a reappraisal of the current and future level of research and development expenditure on nuclear energy.

Despite the present drop in electricity consumption, demand was forecast to grow at between 3½ and 4½ per cent per annum over the next 20 years, explained Mr. Eadie. Nuclear power would play a principal role in meeting the increases. Our nuclear research and development programmes were directed to that end.

Domestic energy sources

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Energy what commitment, and what amount of financial investment, was mainly devoted in developing domestic sources of energy, particularly in oil, coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy.

Mr. Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, answered: 'The reality of our commitment is demonstrated by the Public Expenditure White Paper (Cmnd. 5879), as revised in subsequent reviews, eg the Plan for Coal, and by the 1975/76 Supply Estimates. The relevant figures for the current year are given in the following table.' (*See also page 447.*)

	£ million (1974 prices)
i Construction of power stations (Great Britain)*	357
ii Coal*	149
iii Natural gas*	209
iv North Sea exploration by nationalised industries' subsidiaries	67
v Research, development, etc., by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority	100
vi Department of Energy, research and development	7
vii Department of Energy, assistance towards offshore development projects	24
Total	913

* Including research and development.

Coal-fired power stations

Mr. George Grant (Morpeth) inquired how many coal-fired power stations had been closed in each of the last 10 years, and how many new coal-fired power stations had come into production in each of the past 10 years.

Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, said he was informed by the CEGB that during the past 10 years a total of 4,040 MW of coal-fired capacity had been closed. In the same period 20,685 MW of new coal-fired capacity had been brought into production. Details are:

(a) Coal-fired power stations closed over last 10 years

Year	Stations	Sections of stations	Output capacity of stations (MW)	Output capacity of sections (MW)	Total coal closures* (MW)	Total closures* (MW)
1965/66	6	1	76	18	131	158
1966/67	4	—	55	—	165	231
1967/68	14	5	248	123	483	484
1968/69	7	4	178	62	575	760
1969/70	7	2	221	31	431	555
1970/71	3	2	152	51	351	543
1971/72	3	1	136	20	198	334
1972/73	8	2	425	42	559	561
1973/74	4	2	156	70	403	439
1974/75	1	1	228	99	744	746

* This figure includes individual sets which were scrapped at stations, but which do not qualify as either a station or section of a station.

(b) Coal-fired power stations brought into production in the last 10 years

Year	Stations	Sections of stations	Output capacity of stations (MW)	Output capacity of sections (MW)	Total new coal capacity* (MW)	Total new capacity* (MW)
1965/66	1	—	500	—	1,205	2,739
1966/67	1	1	340	100	1,401	1,952
1967/68	3	—	1,830	—	3,534	3,935
1968/69	1	—	250	—	3,048	3,540
1969/70	2	—	1,425	—	2,186	2,779
1970/71	—	—	—	—	1,708	3,535
1971/72	4	—	2,033	—	2,435	5,520
1972/73	—	—	—	—	1,998	2,798
1973/74	—	—	—	—	1,520	2,052
1974/75	1	—	1,150	—	1,650	1,735

* These figures include increases in interim ratings and the introduction of new sets in existing stations.

Mr. Grant then asked what had been the percentage of coal-fired capacity in the power stations in the United Kingdom for each of the last 10 years.

Mr. Eadie said that he was informed by the CEGB that the percentage of coal-fired capacity in each of the past 10 years was as follows:

Year	Per cent	Year	Per cent
1965/66	76.90	1970/71	77.03
1966/67	76.39	1971/72	70.63
1967/68	77.41	1972/73	69.00
1968/69	77.84	1973/74	68.94
1969/70	77.80	1974/75	69.95

What was the estimated percentage of coal-fired capacity in United Kingdom power stations for each of the next five years, Mr. Grant also wanted to know.

The CEGB had informed him, said Mr. Eadie, that the estimated percentage of coal-fired capacity in their system for each of the next five years was as follows:

1975/76, 72 per cent; 1976/77, 71 per cent; 1977/78, 69 per cent; 1978/79, 66 per cent; and 1979/80, 63 per cent. Dual-fired plant, ie coal/gas and coal/oil, is included as coal-fired capacity.)

The figure for 1976/77 takes account of the closure of 3,419 MW of plant agreed at the meeting of the electricity supply industry's National Joint Advisory Council on 16 October 1975. The estimates for this and subsequent years takes into account the commissioning of plant now under construction.

Mr. Frank Hatton (Manchester, Moss Side) asked how many employees of the CEGB were expected to be made redundant as a result of the proposed closure of coal-fired power stations.

Mr. Benn replied: 'As my Hon. Friend may have seen, agreement was reached on 16 October within the electricity supply industry's National Joint Advisory Council on the closure or partial shut-down of a number of power stations employing at 31 July last a total of 4,952 staff. The unions made it clear that they would not accept any compulsory redundancies. Staff problems will be dealt

with as far as possible through such measures as re-deployment to other sectors of the industry (with re-training where necessary), through natural wastage, and through early retirement in the case of older workers.'

Fluidised combustion of coal

Mr. Wilson wanted to know what collaboration, if any, existed between the Department and the National Coal Board in accelerating research into fluidised combustion of coal in power station boilers.

Mr. Eadie said that the Department of Energy and the National Coal Board were collaborating closely in the formulation of a proposal for a major research project under the auspices of the International Energy Agency. The proposal was for a large test facility to be built in the United Kingdom for the purpose of providing knowledge needed to exploit the fluidised bed combustion technique for a range of power generation purposes.

Exploratory wells and petroleum licences in UK waters

Dr. Colin Phipps (Dudley West) asked what was the total number of exploratory wells drilled in United Kingdom water to date, and how many were currently drilling. What was the total number of exploratory wells drilled in United Kingdom water to date in which British-owned companies had participated, and similarly for those exploratory wells currently drilling. And what was the total number of exploratory wells drilled in United Kingdom water to date in which British-owned companies, other than Shell, BP, Burmah, the Gas Corporation and the NCB, had participated, and similarly for those exploratory wells currently drilling.

In response, Mr. John Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, gave the following details of exploration wells drilled and being drilled in UK waters:

Exploration wells	Drilled	Currently being drilled
Total	385	15
In which British-owned companies have participated	270	13
In which British-owned companies other than Shell, BP, Burmah, British Gas and NCB have participated	91	5

Dr. Phipps also wanted to know what was the total acreage of petroleum licences currently held in United Kingdom waters, what was the total acreage of petroleum licences currently held in United Kingdom waters by British-owned companies, and what was the total acreage of petroleum licences currently held in United Kingdom waters by British-owned companies other than Shell, BP, Burmah, the Gas Corporation and the NCB.

In reply, Mr. Smith said that the total area at present licensed under offshore Petroleum Production Licences was some 105,000km². The share held by British-owned companies totalled about 35,000km² of which 11,500km² were held by British companies other than Shell, BP, Burmah, British Gas and NCB.

North Sea oil production

Mr. Robert Woof asked the Secretary of State for Energy how far he expected the United Kingdom to be able to supply the needs of the oil industry by the end of the current decade with the prospect of North Sea oil production.

North Sea production was expected to be more than equivalent to total UK demand in 1980 and would supply the needs of the UK industry for that type of crude, answered Mr. Smith. Not all of this oil would, however, be refined in the UK, because of quality and other considerations. Some would be exported and we would continue to import substantial quantities of Middle East crude.

What was the latest estimate of the production potential of North Sea oil by 1980, what would be the likely production in barrels per day, and what estimate had been made of the capital cost of each barrel produced, inquired Mr. Woof.

Mr. Smith replied: 'Potential annual production in 1980 is estimated at between 100 and 130 million tons, or an average of 2 to 2.6 million barrels a day. The cost of production of North Sea oil varies between fields. For the fields currently under development it probably lies between $2 and $6 per barrel.'

Mr. Woof also wanted to know what was the current estimated yield of possible reserves of North Sea oil in the explored potential oil-bearing structures.

The table on page 14 of the Report to Parliament on the Development of the Oil and Gas Resources of the United Kingdom (the 'Brown Book') showed that the proportion of our total possible reserves of oil (3,000 to 4,500 million tons) accounted for by existing finds was estimated at 1,800 million tons, said Mr. Smith. Discoveries made since that date would be likely to increase that figure.

Mr. Woof then asked whether the new North Sea oil strikes were likely to be some years in coming into significant production, and whether such oil produced would greatly reduce the United Kingdom's dependence on imports.

Mr. Smith said that 23 new discoveries of oil had been made on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf since the beginning of the year. It was unlikely that all of them would prove to be commercially viable, and a further period of technical and economic appraisal would be necessary before decisions to develop could be taken. Oil from those that were developed should after about 1980 make an increasing contribution to our trade balance.

Safety at Windscale

Mr. Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) wanted to know whether the Secretary of State for Energy was satisfied with all the health and safety aspects of work involving the processing of nuclear waste and fuels at Windscale.

'British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.'s installation at Windscale', said Mr. Benn, 'is a licensed site under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. The necessary health and safety standards for the processing of all nuclear materials received at Windscale are provided by means of conditions attached to the license which is granted by the Health and Safety Executive. These conditions are enforced by the Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which exercises strict control at all licensed sites. These arrangements are designed to provide all practicable safeguards.'

Tuesday, 28 October

International agreements on paper imports

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would list those international agreements which prevented the Government from reducing the level of duty-free imports of paper and paper products and indicate what arrangements existed for withdrawal from such agreements.

In reply, Mr. Deakins said that the agreements covering the duty-free quotas for imports of paper and paper products were the Free Trade Agreements between the EEC and each of the seven EFTA countries (Cmnd. Nos. 5159 Austria, 5669 Finland, 5182 Iceland, 5556 Norway, 5180 Sweden, 5181 Switzerland and 5164 Portugal). The Agreements could be denounced by either side notifying the other and would cease to be in force 12 months thereafter (in the case of Finland three months). The undertaking not to reduce the duty-free quota levels had been given in July 1972 in an exchange of letters between HMG and each EFTA country (No. 5 in Cmnd. 5180).

Companies registration postal inquiries

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) inquired how many postal inquiries had been made annually at the Companies Registration Office and the Registry of Business Names, respectively; what charges were made for the facility; why the facility was being withdrawn; what financial savings were expected to result, and whether the decision would be reconsidered having regard to the resulting inconvenience to those needing to make inquiries.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied that during 1973, 1974 and the first nine months of 1975 the Companies Registration Office dealt with approximately 44,000, 44,000 and 37,000 inquiries, respectively. Information on a comparable basis for the Registration of Business Names was not available before 1974, during which year approximately 22,000 inquiries were answered. During the first nine months of 1975 there was a marginal increase in the rate of inquiry.

Charges were levied at a minimum rate of 25p plus VAT for the Registry of Business Names and 49p plus VAT for the Companies Registration Office; in either case additional charges were made at cost where the work involved was substantial.

The facility had been withdrawn because the volume of work arising from the statutory duties of the Companies Registration Office continued to increase and it was no longer possible to provide the additional staff needed for the postal inquiry services, which were non-statutory functions. The staff previously employed on these services would be redeployed on statutory duties of the Office.

The financial saving was estimated at about £80,000 in 1976/77. He regretted that he could not reconsider his decision.

Patents Act orders

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) inquired how many orders had been made in each of the past five years under Section 56(2) of the Patents Act 1949.

The Comptroller had made no order under Section 56(2) during the past five years, said Mr. Clinton Davis. Information about orders made by the Court under this sub-section was not available but it was thought that the sub-section was rarely invoked.

Textile imports

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he had met a delegation from the British Textile Employers' Association to discuss the level of textile imports and his Department's policy regarding the survival of a viable United Kingdom textile industry.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend will be meeting representatives of the British Textile Employers' Association on 4 November, when he will be discussing a number of issues including those referred to by the Hon. Member.'

Orders for British goods

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make it the practice of his Department to place orders for goods with British firms operating in areas of high unemployment such as the West Midlands.

'No,' answered Mr. MacKenzie. 'The primary objective of public purchasing must be to obtain the best value for money. My Department does, however, in common with other Government Departments, operate the contracts preference schemes for development areas.'

UK paper manufacture

Mr. John Ovenden wanted to know what was the total value of paper and paper products manufactured in the United Kingdom in 1974 and what was the estimate of the proportion by which production would be altered in 1975.

The estimated value of paper and paper products excluding building board sold by UK manufacturers in 1974 was £2,400 million, replied Mr. Kaufman. No estimate was available of the proportion by which this figure would alter in 1975.

Nuclear power station costs

Mr. Barney Hayhoe asked the Secretary of State for Energy what was the original estimated cost, and the current estimated cost both at actual and constant prices, of each of the CEGB nuclear power stations currently under construction.

Mr. Eadie advised that the CEGB had four nuclear power stations currently under construction, all based on Advanced Gas Cooled (AGR) reactors. The Board had provided the following estimates of construction costs, which excluded the cost of nuclear fuel:

£ million

	Dungeness 'B'	Hinckley Point 'B'	Hartlepool	Heysham
Date of original estimate	31 Mar. 1965	31 Mar. 1966	31 Oct. 1968	31 Nov. 1970
Original estimate at prices at dates given above	89	95	92	142
Current estimated actual costs (ie at prices as actually paid or anticipated to be paid in future)	280	140	220	240
Current estimated costs at constant prices ruling at date(s) of original estimates	186	126	158	174

Drypool Group

Mr. Patrick Wall (Haltemprice) requested a statement on the future of the Drypool Group and the effect the liquidation would have on employment in Hull and the surrounding area.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'The Receiver's report on the prospects for the completion of most of the ships on the order book and the long-term future of the Group's facilities is under urgent consideration. In the meantime work on existing orders in the yards is continuing.'

Leyland machine tool purchases

Mr. J. W. Rooker inquired what action was being taken by his Department to co-ordinate the proposed machine tool purchases of British Leyland with the machine tool industry.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'On the initiative of my Department consultations have taken place between British Leyland and representatives of the machine tool industry to ensure that the industry has a full appreciation of the scale and timing of the company's future requirements. The Department, together with the Machine Tool Trade Association and the Machine Tools EDC, is keeping in close touch with developments.'

Marathon Shipbuilding shares

Mr. Neville Trotter asked what rate of dividend was payable on the £2 million non-cumulative preference shares held by the Government in Marathon Shipbuilding; whether the shares were redeemable, and, if so, when.

In answer, Mr. Kaufman said: 'The £2 million preference shares which were purchased by the Department on 31 December 1974 carry a dividend of 6 per cent net. They are redeemable by the company not later than 30 March 1987.'

Electricity demand and generation

Dr. Edmund Marshall (Goole) wanted to know what were the implications for the electricity supply industry, in terms of generating capacity and employment opportunities, of current trends in national demand for electricity.

'A Joint Statement issued by the electricity supply industry's National Joint Advisory Council on 16 October,' said Mr. Eadie, 'gave details of a programme of closures and partial shut-down of a number of older power stations, employing at 31 July 1975 a total of 4,952 men. Some 3,419 MW of generating capacity are affected. The unions have made it clear that they will not accept any compulsory redundancies. The aim is to deal with staff problems through such measures as redeployment to other sectors of the industry (with retraining where necessary), through natural wastage and through early retirement in the case of older workers. My Rt. Hon. Friend shortly intends to discuss the general closure position with both management and unions.'

CB/34 room heater

Mr. Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest) asked for details of the expenditure incurred by the National Coal Board in the development of the CB/34 room heater and information on the sales of the heater for the years 1973-74 and the first six months of 1975. He also wanted to know if the Secretary of State for Energy was satisfied with the performance of the CB/34 room heater.

Mr. Eadie answered: 'The National Coal Board has been responsible to date for the basic development of a series of six "Smoke Eater" appliances of which the Rayburn CB/34 is one. The Board inform me that they are unable to segregate the costs applicable to the basic development of this particular appliance.

'The National Coal Board does not itself manufacture or sell the Rayburn CB/34 or other appliances and they do not therefore have details of sales.

'I am not in a position to judge the performance of the appliance. However, I am asking the Chairman of the NCB to write to the Hon. Member on this point.'

Wednesday, 29 October

Proportion of paper imported

Mr. John Ovenden asked the Secretary of State for Trade what proportion of total domestic consumption of finished paper and paper products was represented by imported products in 1974, and could he give an estimate of the figure for 1975.

'It was estimated that approximately one-quarter of total domestic consumption of finished paper and paper products, defined as those products covered by MLH 481-484 of the SIC but excluding pulp and building board, was represented by imports in 1974,' answered Mr. Deakins. 'No comparable estimate was available for 1975.

Slater Walker Securities

Mr. Marcus Lipton (Lambeth Central) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would appoint an inspector to investigate and report on the affairs of Slater Walker Securities Ltd.

In reply, Mr. Clinton Davis said: There have been allegations of irregularities in the affairs of certain Slater Walker companies in the Far East. These companies do not come within HMG's jurisdiction, but the two Governments concerned, of Hong Kong and of Singapore, have already instituted inquiries.

'So far as Slater Walker UK-based companies are concerned we have been informed by the new chairman that the financial position of the company is being investigated by independent accountants and that their report will be made available to my Department. My Rt. Hon. Friend will study this and any additional information as it becomes available.'

Export credits and guarantees

Mr. Peter Viggers (Gosport) wanted to know how many policies had been signed under the Export Credits Guarantee Department's cost escalation insurance scheme, and for what amount.

No guarantees had yet been issued, replied

Mr. Deakins, but the scheme had already assisted in the successful negotiation of £140 million of business and a large volume of potential business was at various stages of negotiation. The large project business which the scheme was designed to cover inevitably took considerable time to negotiate with overseas buyers.

Mr. Viggers requested the latest estimate of the total annual cost of export credit.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The estimated cost to the Government in the financial year 1974–75 of ECGD's export refinancing and interest rate support arrangements is £157 million. This includes the cost of providing refinance loans to the banks at the fixed export rate and of interest rate supplements on the bank's unrefinanced fixed rate export lending. ECGD's credit insurance operations are conducted on a commercial basis and at no net cost to public funds.'

What was the latest estimate of the liability in respect of guarantees given under the Export Guarantees Act 1968, Mr. Viggers asked.

As at end-September 1975 it was estimated that liabilities under Section 1 guarantees stood at £6,919 million and liabilities under Section 2 guarantees stood at £2,710 million. Estimated total liabilities in respect of guarantees given under the 1975 Export Guarantees Act therefore totalled £9,629 million.

Mr. Viggers requested the latest estimate of sums paid for securities acquired under Section 3 of the Export Guarantees Act 1968 and for the time being held by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Deakins said that £207 million represented sums paid for securities held by the Secretay of State under Section 4(1) of the 1975 Export Guarantees Act. These related to economic assistance loans given before 1966.

Mr. Viggers also wanted to know what was the latest estimate of principal moneys outstanding in respect of loans made under subsection (1) of Section 1 of the Export Guarantees Amendment Act 1975.

Mr. Deakins answered that at end-September 1975, it was estimated that £1,339 million was outstanding in respect of principal monies under Section 3(1)(a) of the Export Guarantees Act 1975.

What was the latest estimate of the amount due to the Secretary of State under such arrangements as were mentioned in subsection (5) of Section 1 of the Export Guarantees Amendment Act 1975, inquired Mr. Viggers.

'Nil,' replied Mr. Deakins.

What was the latest estimate of the liabilities of the Secretary of State in respect of arrangements made under Section 3 of the Export Guarantees Amendment Act 1975, asked Mr. Viggers.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'Although the Cost Escalation Scheme has already assisted exporters in the successful negotiation of export business, guarantees have not yet been issued and the liabilities involved have not been recorded against the Department's Limit on Commitments.'

Export credits to the USSR

Mr. Viggers (Gosport) inquired what amount of the proposed £1,000 million of export credits to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics announced by the Prime Minister in February 1975 had so far been taken up.

'The total value of contracts so far placed under these arrangements, which in fact total £950 million, is estimated at £30 million,' replied Mr. Deakins. 'In addition, a large number of contracts are currently in negotiation. The total value of these is estimated at £450 million.'

'Bargain Offer Claims'

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what representations she had received from professional, trading and consumers associations, and similar bodies, following the publication of the Consultative Document on 'Bargain Offer Claims', and when she proposed to take action on the recommendations in the document.

In reply, Mr. Williams said: 'This consultative document was issued by the Director General of Fair Trading, who is considering in the light of the comments he has received whether to put proposals to me through the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee in accordance with Part II of the Fair Trading Act 1973. Copies of any relevant correspondence my Department receives are sent to the Director General.'

Mr. Wainwright also wanted to know how many copies of the Consultative Document on 'Bargain Offer Claims' had been sold, and the total cost of producing it.

Mr. Williams said the document was published by the Stationery Office on behalf of the Director General of Fair Trading. He understood that it cost about £1,425 to produce and that about 1,470 copies had been sold.

Public house prices

Mr. Keith Stainton (Sudbury and Woodbridge) wanted to know what representations had been received regarding pub charging and what was the object of the policy of requiring the prices of drinks sold in licensed premises to be prominently displayed.

In answer, Mr. Williams said: 'I have received many representations about prices of drinks in licensed premises. While I am satisfied that the Price Code effectively controls brewery profits, my object in requiring prices of drinks to be prominently displayed is to let the customer know in advance of placing his order the level of prices charged in that bar so that he may decide whether this is a fair price having regard to the amenities offered. Price display will also make it easier for customers to check whether they have been overcharged and for local authorities to prosecute for overcharging.'

Patent Office fees

Mr. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) inquired what increases had been made in the statutory fees charged by the Patent Office during the past 10 years, and what percentage increase was involved on each occasion.

In response, Mr. Clinton Davis said that, altogether over 230 fees were involved and the specific items were set out in the relevant Statutory Instruments. The effect of the increases could, however, be assessed by comparison of certain main fees, which together accounted for by the largest part of the revenue of the Patent Office.

Mr. Clarke also wanted to know what effect would the Government's counter-inflation policies have upon the increase in the statutory fees charged by the Patent Office which was proposed to come into effect from 1 November.

The increases in Patent Office fees, which came into effect on 1 November, were necessary if the Patent Office was to maintain its long-established policy of breaking even over a period, explained Mr. Clinton Davis. This policy was fully consistent with the Government's counter inflation policies.

PATENTS – cost of securing a patent and keeping it in force for the full term of 16 years.

Effective date	Statutory Instrument No.	Cost (£)	Per cent increase over previous cost
7 October 1967	1967 No. 1171	234	1.7
21 June 1969	1969 No. 482	241	3.0
9 December 1969	1969 No. 1706	256	6.2
1 June 1971	1971 No. 263	331	29.3
19 May 1974	1974 No. 87	370	11.8
24 May 1975	1975 No. 371	696	88.1
1 November 1975	1975 No. 1262	905	30.0

TRADE MARKS – cost of registering a trade mark for seven years and of renewal for each subsequent 14-year period.

		Registration		Renewal	
Effective date	Statutory Instrument No.	Cost (£)	Per cent increase over previous cost	Cost (£)	Per cent increase over previous cost
29 November 1967	1967 No. 1366	10	11.1	13	30.0
21 June 1969	1969 No. 522	12	20.0	15	15.4
1 June 1971	1971 No. 261	14	16.7	20	33.3
21 October 1974	1974 No. 1314	16	14.3	22	10.0
9 June 1975	1975 No. 576	30	87.5	42	90.9
22 November 1975	1975 No. 1532	50	66.7	73	73.8

DESIGNS – cost of registering a design and keeping it in force for the full term of 15 years.

Effective date	Statutory Instrument No.	Cost (£)	Per cent increase over previous cost
21 June 1969	1969 No. 481	35	25.0
1 June 1971	1971 No. 262	58	65.7
19 May 1974	1974 No. 86	59.50	2.6
24 May 1975	1975 No. 372	113	89.9
10 December 1975	1975 No. 1440	147	30.1

Unit pricing

Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely) asked if steps would be taken to introduce unit pricing to avoid the confusion of volume measure.

Consumers were helped most, said Mr. Williams, if prepackaged goods were sold in prescribed quantities, or in standardised containers. However, this was not always both economic and technically possible and he would gladly consider specific suggestions for extending unit pricing.

Postal rates

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would give a general direction to the Post Office to introduce a lower postal charge for postcards in view of the inferior nature of a postcard as against closed posted material in lack of privacy, the greater ease of handling and the lightness of weight, and also direct that open letters should receive favourable treatment as against closed postal material.

'No,' answered Mr. MacKenzie. 'These are matters for the Post Office who tell me that postcards cost them no less to handle than letters, and that unsealed envelopes can cost them more because of the problems they cause in sorting machinery.'

Mr. Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) wanted to know if the Secretary of State for Industry would give a general direction to the Post Office to prepare and operate a scheme of concessionary inland and overseas postal rates for retirement pensioners, widows, the disabled and those on supplementary benefit claimable on production of the appropriate benefit or pension book.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'No. The cost of such a concession would fall on other users of the postal services, some of whom could be worse off than the intended beneficiaries.'

Chemical feedstock

Mr. Gordon Wilson asked the Secretary of State for Energy what was the current chemical feedstock production in the UK, and what are the projections made for 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000, respectively. He also wanted to know what was the current annual import of petro-chemical feedstock; from which countries were major supplies drawn; and what projections of input and output of such feedstocks were made for 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000, respectively.

Products for petro-chemical feedstock, explained Mr. Smith, were not separately distinguished in statistics of refinery production and arrivals prepared by the oil industry and published annually by the Department in the *Digest of UK Energy Statistics*. Details of the main products delivered to the petro-chemical industry were available and the 1974 figures, which would be published in November in the 1975 edition of the Digest, were given (below), together with the production and arrivals figures for the product groups of which they were a part. Insofar as there were substantial exports of products in these groups the shipments data were also given to complete the picture.

In addition some natural gas for use as feedstock was supplied to the petro-chemical industry.

Imports of the above products in 1974 from which petro-chemical feedstock supplies might have been drawn came mainly from Netherlands, Italy, France and Belgium.

Forecasts of the production and input and output of gas and petroleum products for feedstock were not published. Forecasts up to 1990 of oil and gas for all non-energy uses and oil used in bunkers were contained in the Department of Energy's memorandum on conservation given in evidence to the Select Committee on Science and Technology: Sub-committee on Energy Resources and published by them.

Nuclear waste processing

Mr. Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest) requested details of the safety procedures employed during the processing of nuclear waste in the United Kingdom, and an assurance that a statement would be made if it was decided to import substantial additional quantities of waste from foreign countries for processing.

Mr. Benn answered: 'The processing of irradiated nuclear fuel, including the separation of waste products from it, is carried out by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. at Windscale, Cumbria. The installation is a licensed site under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. The necessary safety standards for processing are provided by means of conditions attached to the licence, which is granted by the Health and Safety Executive. The conditions include requirements for establishing operating limits and operating instructions for the processing plant and are enforced by the Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate which exercises strict control at all licensed sites. Some irradiated fuel is processed at United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority sites, which are not subject to licensing but which are required to maintain the same standards as those applied at licensed sites.

'As already announced, the Government is considering whether it would be acceptable for further processing work for overseas customers to be undertaken here. When a decision has been reached, I will in due course announce it.'

Carbon monoxide poisoning

Mr. Anthony Steen (Liverpool, Wavertree) inquired how many people, and in what regions, were killed or injured as a result of asphyxiation before the passing of the Gas Safety Regulations 1972 due to inadequate flue construction, and how many had been so affected since.

Mr. Smith said the information was not available in the form requested; in particular statistics of fatalities and injuries arising specifically from asphyxiation were not available. However, the British Gas Corporation had provided the following statistics of fatalities from carbon monoxide poisoning. In addition, the Registrars-General for England and Wales and Scotland collected and published a variety of accident statistics, of which the Hon. Member might already be aware.

TABLE I Fatalities from carbon monoxide poisoning attributable either to unburnt gas or burnt gas (the product of combustion) : all regions :

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
271	170	113	94	57

TABLE II Fatalities from burnt gas : all regions (within Table I above) :

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
84	67	80	69	44

TABLE III Fatalities from burnt gas where problems with flues (of which construction faults may have been a contributory factor) : by regions (within Table II above) :

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Scottish	1	—	—	1	2
Northern	3	—	2	—	5
North West	4	3	8	8	5
North East	6	2	1	2	1
East Midlands	2	5	6	2	4
West Midlands	6	7	7	8	3
Wales	2	—	—	—	—
Eastern	3	3	4	3	3
North Thames	4	5	11	5	8
South East	2	8	7	5	6
Southern	3	5	2	2	2
South West	5	2	—	3	2
Totals	41	40	48	39	41

Thursday, 30 October

Nationalised industry deficits

Mr. David Knox (Leek) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would publish in the Official Report a table showing for each nationalised industry (taking the latest available figures) the current deficit on both a per capita and a per family basis.

Mr. MacKenzie, in reply, stated that the latest available accounts of the two nationalised industries for which he was responsible showed surpluses or deficits in respect of the financial year 1974/75. The population of Great Britain at the 1971 Census was approximately 54 million, and there were 14.5 million families at the same date. He then gave the following information requested:

	Surplus/deficit £m (to 31 Mar. 1975)	Per capita (1971 Census)	Per family (1971 Census)
British Steel Corporation	+89.7*	+£1.66	+£6.16
Post Office	−306.7†	−£5.68	−£21.15

* Before taxation. The BSC expects to make a loss during the current financial year.

† Before taking account of the compensation paid for price restraint under the Statutory Corporations (Financial Provisions) Act 1974.

EEC regional aid

Mrs. Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Lancaster) requested a list of the projects that had been submitted to the Regional Development Fund of the EEC for regional aid, a list of the projects which have been approved, the amount which would be paid by the Regional Development Fund, in addition to the national fund, and the contribution to be made to each project by the Government.

'The projects which have been approved are all Government advance factories,' answered Mr. MacKenzie, 'and we shall be entitled to claim £8.8 million representing

Thousand tons

	Production	Arrivals	Shipments	Deliveries to petro-chemical plants
Petroleum gases	1,843	47	164	115
Naphtha	6,346	2,540	809	6,598
Miscellaneous	1,392	—	—	386

In addition some natural gas for use as feedstock was supplied to the petro-chemical industry.

30 per cent of our expenditure on them in 1975 and 1976. We have submitted claims somewhat in excess of our quota for the rest of this year and it would be premature to publish a list until we know which claims are successful'. The approved projects were as follows:

NORTHERN ENGLAND (49 projects)	
Alnwick	1 advance factory
Ashington	2 advance factories land purchase
Bishop Auckland	1 advance factory
Blyth	1 advance factory
Cleator Moor	2 advance factories
Consett	4 advance factories
Cramlington	3 advance factories
Crook	1 advance factory
Hartlepool	3 advance factories land purchase
Houghton	4 advance factories
Jarrow	1 advance factory
Newcastle	1 advance factory
North Seaton	Land purchase
Skelton	1 advance factory
Stanley	3 advance factories
Sunderland	3 advance factories
Team Valley	3 advance factories
Teesside	3 advance factories
Tynemouth	5 advance factories
Workington	4 advance factories
NORTH WEST ENGLAND (26 projects)	
Bromborough	3 advance factories
Burnley	1 advance factory land purchase
Irlam	1 advance factory
Knowsley	9 advance factories
Lancaster	1 advance factory land purchase
Nelson	1 advance factory
St. Helen's	1 advance factory
Speke	3 advance factories land purchase
Wigan	3 advance factories
SCOTLAND (61 projects)	
Arbroath	1 advance factory
Ayr	1 advance factory
Beith	1 advance factory
Bellshill	1 advance factory
Blantyre	1 advance factory
Bothwell Park	2 advance factories
Buckie	1 advance factory
Cambuslang	Land purchase
Clydebank	4 advance factories
Coatbridge	2 advance factories
Cowlairs	4 advance factories
Cumnock	1 advance factory
East Queenslie	3 advance factories
Edinburgh	1 advance factory
Falkirk	2 advance factories
Fort William	1 advance factory
Galashiels	1 advance factory
Germiston	1 advance factory
Girvan	1 advance factory
Greenock	2 advance factories
Hillington	3 advance factories
Inchinnan	3 advance factories
Inverurie	1 advance factory
Kilsyth	1 advance factory
Inverurie	1 advance factory
Kirkcaldy	1 advance factory
Kirkonnel	1 advance factory
Lanark	1 advance factory
Lesmahagow	1 advance factory
Leven	2 advance factories
Motherwell	2 advance factories
Port Glasgow	1 advance factory
Sanquhar	1 advance factory
Shieldhall	1 advance factory
Shotts	2 advance factories
Stranraer	1 advance factory
Tweedbank	1 advance factory land purchase
Vale of Leven	1 advance factory
Wester Gourdie	4 advance factories
NORTHERN IRELAND (8 projects)	
West Belfast	New industrial sites
Newry	New industrial sites 1 advance factory
Londonderry	New industrial sites 1 advance factory
Strabane	New industrial sites 1 advance factory
Omagh	1 advance factory
WALES (46 projects)	
Aberbargoed Rhymney	1 advance factory
Abercarn	1 advance factory
Afan Valley	1 advance factory
Bangor	1 advance factory land purchase
Blaenavon	Land purchase
Bridgend	1 advance factory
Brynmawr	1 advance factory
Caernarvon	1 advance factory land purchase
Capel Hendre	Land purchase
Cardiff	Land purchase 1 advance factory
Cwmfelinfach	1 advance factory
Cwmtillery	1 advance factory
Fishguard	1 advance factory
Gaerwen	2 advance factories
Gwaun Cae Gurwen	1 advance factory
Gwmdraw	1 advance factory
Hirwaun	2 advance factories
Holyhead	Land purchase
Kenfig	1 advance factory
Landore	1 advance factory
Llanrwst	Land purchase
Maesteg	2 advance factories
Pembroke	Land purchase
Penyfan	2 advance factories
Pontardulais	1 advance factory
Portmadoc	1 advance factory
Pwllheli	1 advance factory
Rhondda	2 advance factories
Rhyl	1 advance factory land purchase
Rhymney Penallta	1 advance factory
Rhymney Valley	Land purchase
Rogerstone	1 advance factory
Tafarnanbach	Group of advance factories
Tredegar	1 advance factory
Waterton	1 advance factory
Wrexham	1 advance factory
Ynyscedwyn	1 advance factory
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE (20 projects)	
Barnsley	3 advance factories
Bridlington	2 advance factories
Doncaster	5 advance factories land purchase
Hemsworth	2 advance factories
Hull	4 advance factories
Normanton	1 advance factory land purchase
Rotherham	1 advance factory
EAST MIDLANDS (3 projects)	
Chesterfield	1 advance factory land purchase
Clay Cross	1 advance factory
SOUTH WEST ENGLAND (23 projects)	
Callington	1 advance factory land purchase
Cambourne	4 advance factories land purchase
Lee Mills	Land purchase
Newquay	Land purchase (3 projects)
Penryn	4 advance factories land purchase
Plymouth	2 advance factories
Truro	1 advance factory
West Penwith	3 advance factories land purchase

Mrs. Kellett-Bowman also asked how many jobs would be created or maintained by the projects which the Government had put forward for aid from the European Regional Development Fund, and which had been accepted for grant aid by the Commission, and how that figure of jobs created or maintained compared with the figures for Ireland, France and Italy.

Mr. MacKenzie said that the British applications so far accepted were in respect of advance factories, and at the present stage it was impossible to predict what jobs they would provide. He understood that Ireland, France and Italy claimed that their accepted applications would provide or maintain 4,017, 22,686 and 8,330 jobs, respectively. We had submitted claims somewhat in excess of the UK quota for the rest of this year and until he knew which were accepted it would be misleading to give figures for jobs to be created with Fund assistance. He did not know what employment claims had been made in respect of unaccepted claims by other Member Governments.

Letter post costs

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) wanted to know, comparing the average wages ratio in manufacturing industry in 1938 and 1975 and the diminished hours worked, what was the real cost in terms of time spent to pay for a pre-war letter compared with the current 8½p letter rate.

Mr. MacKenzie said it was 5.05 and 4.05 minutes, respectively, on the basis of the figures set out below.

Date	Average full-time earnings in manufacturing industry (manual worker)	Average hours worked	Letter rate
Oct. 1938	71 shillings	47.8	1½ old pence for 2oz
Apr. 1975	£56.6	45.0	8½p for 2oz

Milk prices

Mr. Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether she would delay the introduction of metrication in the retailing of milk and other products so that unnecessary price increases to the consumer could be avoided.

It was not Government policy to delay Industry's plans for metrication, replied Mr. Williams. The introduction of metric quantities should not result in increase of price per unit of their products.

Mr. Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) wanted to know what had been the comparative position of the price of milk in relation to the movement of prices of other foodstuffs over the past five years.

To this question, Mr. Maclennan replied: 'Over the five years ended September 1975, the retail price of a pint of milk rose from 5p to 7p, representing a 40 per cent increase. Over the same period the retail food index, including milk, rose by 112 per cent.

'From 2 November 1975 milk will be selling at 8½p a pint, which is 70 per cent more than the September 1970 price of 5p a pint. Milk is subsidised to the extent of 2p a pint, so without the subsidy milk would be selling at 10½p a pint from 2 November. This would be 110 per cent above the price in September 1970, an increase only slightly less than the 112 per cent rise in the retail food index.'

Professional fees

Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley) asked to what extent the fees charged by consultants, quantity surveyors, etc., which were assessed on a proportionate basis of the cost of a project, were subject to the current policy of restrictions on wage and salary increases.

In reply, Mr. Maclennan said: 'Fees charged by professional firms or individuals who are self-employed are subject to the controls contained in paragraphs 123 and 126 inclusive of the Price Code. Increases in fees, including scales of fees of general application, are permitted only to reflect increases in allowable costs. Allowable costs in this context do not include any element in respect of proprietors' or partners' time. Net profit margin control also applies to self-employed persons offering professional or other services.

'An exemption from control for cases

where disbursements or expenses did not exceed 10 per cent of profits (formerly in paragraph 123 of the Price Code) has been withdrawn in connection with the present counter-inflation policy by virtue of the Counter-Inflation (Price Code) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1975 (SI 1975 no. 1293).'

Overseas trade figures

Mr. Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) wanted to know whether the recently discovered mistakes in the seasonally-adjusted overseas trade figures left the actual returns for the value of exports and imports unaffected; whether the estimated wrong figures had a significant impact on confidence and thus the sterling exchange rate, exports and imports; and what steps he had taken to ensure that such mistakes were not repeated.

In answer, Mr. Deakins said: 'The recorded figures of the value of exports and imports are not affected by the recently discovered error which occurred in the seasonal adjustment process. The revised seasonally adjusted figures continue to show a substantial decrease in the deficit on current account this year; in the first nine months of 1975 the annual rate of deficit was £1,912 million compared with £3,668 million for the whole of 1974. The recent trends in exports and imports as shown by the figures for the third quarter of 1975 are scarcely altered by the revisions. Firm steps have been taken to ensure that the correct computer program is used in future and to improve the procedure for regular monitoring of the seasonally adjusted figures.

Mr. Higgins also asked what was the rank of those responsible for the mistake recently discovered in the seasonally adjusted overseas trade figures.

Mr. Deakins said: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State accepts full responsibility for the actions of his Department. We regret that a mistake was made and have taken steps to prevent it happening again.'

Was the Secretary of State satisfied with the adequacy of the Press briefing provided by his Department in clarifying the Press notice announcing the discovery of major errors in the seasonally-adjusted overseas trade figures?

'Yes,' replied Mr. Deakins.

Non-oil visible trade

Mr. Higgins asked if it was now the view of the Secretary of State for Trade that the United Kingdom's non-oil visible trading account in the first four months of 1975 was in surplus.

The non-oil visible balance for January/April of this year, provisionally estimated in May to be a small surplus, was revised in June to a small deficit answered Mr. Deakins. While the latest figures showed a deficit in January/April of £48 million a month, this was substantially less than the £151 million a month deficit which occurred in 1974.

Friday, 31 October

Import restraints in EEC

Mr. Ian Mikardo (Bethnal Green and Bow) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what actions had been taken since 1 January 1973 by the Governments of France and Italy to restrain certain imports, and what retaliatory actions, if any, were carried out in each case by the Governments of other EEC countries.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'I have taken this question to refer to actions taken by the two Governments affecting imports from other EEC Member States. There have been two such cases since the beginning of 1973. The first was the Italian Import Deposit Scheme, introduced on 7 May 1974 in accordance with the provisions of Article 108(3) of the Treaty of Rome in order to correct a serious balance of payments deficit. In essence, the scheme required importers to place 50 per cent of the cif cost of a very wide range of goods on six months interest-free deposit with the Bank of Italy. The scheme, which was non-discriminatory, was approved by the EEC Commission and no retaliatory action was taken. The measure was abrogated on 24 March this year.

'In September, the French Government announced a 12 per cent border tax on imports of Italian table wines. We are not aware that the Italian Government have taken retaliatory action.'

Oil rig import bill

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) inquired what had been the total import bill for production platforms and installations over the past 12 months.

The total cost of oil production installations and drilling rigs coming into United Kingdom ownership in the 12 months ended September was £227 million on a balance of payments basis, replied Mr. Deakins.

Spanish yarn imports

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade, would publish in the Official Report the total tonnage of yarn imports from Spain in 1973 and 1974, and if he would estimate the tonnage penetration to be expected in 1975.

In response, Mr. Deakins gave the following information (estimates for the whole of 1975 were not available):

	Cotton yarn (tonnes)	Other yarns (tonnes)
1973	85	991
1974	1,924	820
1975 Jan.-Aug.	1,746	179

UK aerospace production

Mr. Tebbit asked for a statement on the total value in 1975 terms of production by the United Kingdom aerospace industry for each of the past 10 years broken down into: (a) airframes – separating spares and original equipment, (b) engines – separating spares and original equipment, (c) avionics – separating spares and original equipment, and (d) space equipment.

Mr. Kaufman gave the following details.

The total sales of aerospace products by United Kingdom firms in the years 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974, corrected to July 1975 input prices, were:

£ million

	1968	1971	1972	1973	1974
Total production sales	1,637	1,416	1,443	1,302	1,308

The sales of complete aircraft, aircraft parts, complete aeroengines, aeroengine parts and equipment for space were:

£ million

	1968	1971	1972	1973	1974
Complete aircraft	374	341	210	193	181
Aircraft parts	329	308	275	228	222
Complete aeroengines	294	119	173	202	200
Aeroengine parts	277	295	343	344	300
Equipment for space	5	16	19	25	21

The other items included in total productions sales were air cushion vehicles and parts, guided weapons and parts, parachutes and parts, repairs and modifications and other products and work done. Development and experimental work done for HMG and other customers had been excluded.

The above figures had been obtained by applying an aerospace input cost index correction to figures published by HMSO in Business Monitor M9 and in the Report on the 1968 Census of Production. Comprehensive figures for other years were not available and spares could not be distinguished from other parts.

No separate figures were available for avionics.

Telephone calls income

Mr. Robert Banks (Harrogate) asked what was the estimate of the percentage decrease in the number of telephone calls made which would have the effect of bringing total income to that of the last financial year before the last introduction of higher charges.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'It is not practicable to answer the question, except in income terms, because the various tariff changes have affected average revenue per call as well as the number of calls.

'At prices ruling before the higher call charges introduced on 1 October 1975, it is broadly estimated that inland calls business forecast for the financial year 1975-76 would need to fall, over the whole year, by about 25 per cent to bring the total calls income for the year down to that for 1974/75. However, in the light of the actual level of calls business for the six months to 30 September, business over the six months October 1975 to March 1976 would need to fall by nearly 50 per cent for the eventual level of calls income for the year to be no greater than for 1974/75.

'If the higher call charges introduced on 1 October 1975 are taken into account, the comparable percentages are of the order of 45 per cent and 70 per cent respectively.'

Concorde long lead materials

Mr. Tebbit asked how much public money had now been (a) committed and (b) expended on the purchase of long lead materials for Concordes, numbers 17 to 22.

The amount of public money committed to the purchase of long lead materials for Concordes 17–22 was £1.5 million, practically all of which had been expended, replied Mr. Kaufman.

Ground Proximity Warning System

Mr. Tebbit asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would inform the House of the nature, extent and purpose of the contract between his Department and the Plessey Company for work on

GPWS; and whether he was satisfied that such work needed to be done in view of the existence of developed foreign manufactured systems, that it was desirable that only one British system should be developed, and that the development of a British system would not delay the installation of GWPS in the United Kingdom transport aircraft.

Mr Kaufman replied: 'My Department is helping the Plessey Company to demonstrate the technology required in their development of a Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS), including an evaluation in an aircraft operated by the Royal Aircraft Establishment.

'GPWS equipment available from US sources has been designed against the specifications issued by the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) for aircraft on the US domestic register.

'The Plessey Company is the only UK firm known to be attacking this market and has designed its equipment to satisfy, in addition, the somewhat different specifications prepared by the Civil Aviation Authority for equipment which may be required for aircraft on the UK register. I understand that it is the firm's intention to meet the installation requirements of UK transport aircraft.'

Government aid for civil aircraft

Mr. Tebbit requested details of the amounts of launching aid and other Government support of each civil aircraft programme in receipt of such aid since 1945, together with the return to HM Government by way of royalties, levies etc., expressed in current money terms. He also requested statistics on which were based Ministerial statements on the extent of Government finance of the aerospace construction industry and its return upon that investment.

The following information was given by Mr. Kaufman:

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND RECEIPTS FROM THE LAUNCHING OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT/AEROENGINES SINCE 1945 UP TO 31 MARCH 1974

£ million

Type	Contributions current prices	Receipts current prices
AIRCRAFT		
Shetland, Sandringham, Solent, Tudor, Air Horse	2.25	N.A.
Apollo	1.25	Nil
Brabazon	6.45	Nil
Hermes	1.3	N.A.
Comet 1-4	10.25	4.1
Ambassador	1.85	.15
Princess	9.1	Nil
Viscount	1.8	3.0
V-1000	2.35	Nil
Twin Pioneer	.05	.05
Britannia	6.4	5.1
Rotodyne	3.05	Nil
Argosy	.1	Nil
Herald	1.1	.05
VC-10	10.25	1.05
Trident	26.1	.75
BAC 1-11	19.05	3.3
Islander	0.5	.05
Jetstream	1.2	.1
Airbus	1.15	Nil
HS 146	1.25	Nil
Concorde	233.8	3.15
	340.15	20.85
ENGINES		
Dart	5.3	8.45
Proteus	19.45	3.5
Eland	10.9	.05
Tyne	4.0	2.1
Orion	4.75	Nil
Avon	8.5	6.95
Conway	6.65	5.85
Spey	9.9	6.6
RB 178	1.3	.1
Trent (RB 203)	2.5	.6
RB 207	2.0	.05
M45H (for VFW 614)	6.6	Nil
RB 211	146.7	6.25
Olympus 593 (for Concorde)	178.1	Nil
	406.65	40.5
Totals	746.8	61.35

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRODUCTION COSTS TO 31 MARCH 1974

	£ million (current prices)
Concorde	69.25
Olympus	14.8
RB 211 engine	34.5

Substantial receipts were expected in the future on a number of the projects listed.

Aerospace industry's rate of return

Mr. Tebbit asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he expected to be able to indicate to the Board of his proposed nationalised aerospace construction industry what rate of return HM Government expected upon its investment therein.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend will set financial duties for British Aerospace under clause 10 of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'These could take various forms, including a rate of return on capital employed, but under clause 10(4) he must be satisfied that they are likely, taken together, to result in an adequate return on the capital employed.'

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

Mr. Jenkin asked how much foreign exchange has been earned by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., by reprocessing irradiated nuclear fuel from reactors other than in the United Kingdom over the last five years; and how much he anticipates will be so earned in the five years to 1980.

Mr. Benn answered: 'In the years 1971-75 foreign exchange earnings by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., from the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels amounted to £9 million. In the years 1976-80 it is estimated that earnings from existing reprocessing contracts will be £34 million.'

Mr. Jenkin also asked how many countries are currently sending quantities of irradiated nuclear fuel to the UK for reprocessing; and in respect of how many the relevant contracts specify that the radioactive residues are to be returned to the territory of the sender for storage.

'British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. are currently receiving irradiated nuclear fuel for reprocessing from Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland under contracts signed over the last seven years', said Mr. Benn. 'None of these contracts includes provision for the radioactive waste to be returned to the country of origin. Up to 1990 the waste concerned would add about 10 per cent to the quantity arising from the United Kingdom's own nuclear programme.'

Irradiated nuclear fuel from Japan

Mr. Jenkin asked when the next consignment of irradiated nuclear fuel is due to be sent from

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Nov. 1975
VOLUME XIII No. 3

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Japan to Windscale for reprocessing: and what quantity will be involved.

Mr. Benn said: 'A consignment of irradiated fuel left Japan this month for delivery to Windscale for reprocessing. The consignment consists of fuel containing 30 tons of uranium.'

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked what precautions are being taken to ensure that there is no leakage during the storage of the nuclear waste from Japan before it is processed.

Mr. Benn replied: 'Irradiated nuclear fuel from Japan and certain European countries constitutes a small addition to that arising from the United Kingdom nuclear power programme. The fuel is processed at the Windscale works of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., which is a licensed site under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. Conditions attached to the licence, which is granted by the Health and Safety Executive, provide the necessary safeguards for the storage, handling and processing of all nuclear material received at Windscale. These conditions are enforced by the Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate which exercises strict control.'

Mr. Hoyle asked whether other contracts are being sought for the processing of nuclear waste from Japan, apart from that already announced.

'No,' said Mr. Benn. 'Ministers are still considering the proposed Japanese contract.'

Mr. Hoyle asked when the glass processing plant at Windscale would be ready to go into production.

Mr. Benn answered: 'A small scale plant for vitrifying highly active waste at Windscale is currently being designed and should be in operation by 1978. Information from the operation of this plant and from complementary development work should enable a full size demonstration plant to be built in the early 1980s. This plant should be in operation from about 1985 and would be the basis for the construction of subsequent production plants as and when they are needed. It is expected that four such production plants will be required at Windscale by the early 1990s.'

Domestic energy sources

Mr. Jenkin asked the Secretary of State for Energy for a further breakdown of the figures listed in headings (i) to (vii) in his written answer to a question from the Member for Blaydon on 27 October (page 339), showing in each case the main sub-heads of expenditure as used in the Supply Estimates.

Mr. Benn answered that headings (i) to (iv) of the table referred to expenditure by the nationalised industries which does not appear in the Supply Estimates. He gave the relevant information from the 1975/6 Estimates for items (v) to (vii):

	£ million
v Research, development, etc., by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority	100
Class IV, 6	
Section A	84.255
Net research and development, etc., expenditure by and on behalf of the UKAEA	
Section C	13.964
Nuclear energy services carried out on behalf of the Department of Energy, (mainly the Tripartite Gas Centrifuge Collaboration)	
Supplementary Estimate	1.463
Mainly for reorganisation of the nuclear industry	
Total	99.682
vi Department of Energy, research and development	7
Class IV, 8	
Section C	6.9
Research and development contracts carried out on behalf of the Department by industry, universities and other UK Government departments	
Total	6.9
vii Assistance towards offshore development projects	24
Class IV, 8	
Section E	8.5
Selective assistance under Section 8 of the Industry Act to the offshore industry, eg the Offshore Supplies Interest Relief Grant Scheme	
Section G 1	15.5
Development of construction sites for offshore oil production platforms: expenditure under the Offshore Petroleum Development (Scotland) Act	
Total	24

Further subhead detail is shown in 'Supply Estimates 1975-6' (HC 210 of 1974-5) (which includes under Section B of Class IV, 6 net receipts of £11m from the sales of uranium ore), and 'Supplementary Estimates 1975-6' (HC 445 of 1974-5).

Government Sales

Department of Trade

Ship for Sale

Offers are invited for the purchase of the undermentioned crane lighter 'as lying' at HM Naval Base, Rosyth

'Crane Lighter No. 13' Dumb Barge, steel, built 1942. GRT 515. NRT 448. Length 130 ft. Breadth 48 ft. Depth 10 ft.

Copies of form of purchase agreement, further particulars, plan and authority to inspect can be obtained from the Department of Trade, Room 42, Parliament Square House, 34/36 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2ND (tel. 01-212 8996).

Offers should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Room 43 at the above address in envelopes clearly marked 'Offer to Purchase "Crane Lighter No. 13"' and must be received not later than *noon* on 27 November 1975.

The above information is given for guidance only and any prospective purchaser must satisfy himself regarding actual details of the vessel and her present condition.

Ministry of Defence

19 and 20 November 1975 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Hilltop Motor Hotel, London Road, Carlisle

Auctioneers: Harrison and Hetherington (Dept. L), Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle CA1 2RS (tel. 0228 26292)

A large quantity of Government surplus stores including 123 motor vehicles, ie, Bedford, Austin, Morris, Commer and Ford vans, various saloons, Land Rovers, Bedford coaches, Utilicons, Lister and Mercury trucks, Scammell and Lister trailers, forklifts, etc. Machine and hand tools including welding, grinding, folding and bending machines, lathes, guillotines, spanners, drills, vices, pliers, etc. Electric and electronic equipment including amplifiers, power units, receivers, indicators, oscilloscopes, consoles, transformers, relays, switches, alternators, attenuators, generators, insulators, resistors, switch gear, valves and transistors. Stop and pocket watches, cameras, binoculars, gyro units, slide rules, light meters, verniers and depth gauges. Service clothing, boots and shoes, webbing equipment, tents, photographic stores, hose, aluminium and steel sheets, oxygen equipment, metal containers, wooden boxes, furniture, typewriters, tyres, paints and many other items.

Catalogues for the above sale which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

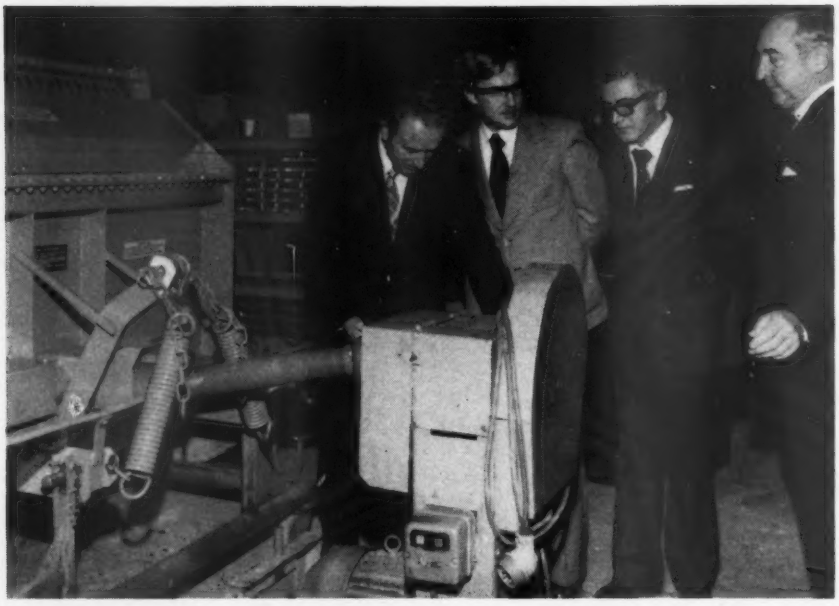
Hovercraft sale by Tender

Tenders are invited for SRN6 Mk5 Hovercraft, serial numbers XT.493 and XT.657, which are lying at RN Aircraft Yard, Fleetlands and HMS 'Daedalus', Lee-on-Solent, respectively.

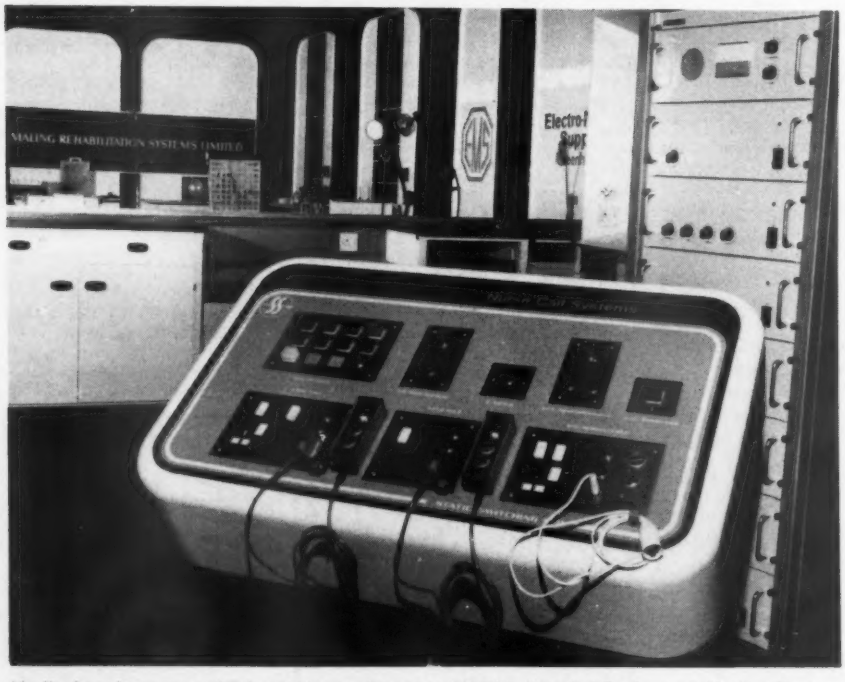
Tender forms are available from the Directorate of Navy Contracts (Supplies), Ministry of Defence, Ensleigh, Bath, BA1 5AD (Telephone: Bath 6933 ext. 4748).

Forms must be requested by 20 November 1975, as the tenders are due at *NOON on Wednesday, 26 November 1975.*

BOTB News



HE Vice Minister M. Nawrot (left), Polish First Deputy Minister of Machine Industry for Agriculture and Food Processing Machinery, during his visit to Archie Kidd Ltd. of Devizes, Wiltshire. With him are (left to right) Stefan Zimmer of the Polish Ministry of Machine Industry and Henry Wilk, Department of Technology and Development, together with their host for the day, Archie Kidd. M. Nawrot was visiting Britain as a guest of the British Overseas Trade Board in order to see what British industry has to offer by way of agricultural machinery, in particular in the green forage and grain sectors, as well as food processing equipment.



Medical equipment on display at the newly-opened British Hospital Equipment Display Centre at 22 Newman Street, London W1. The centre which was officially opened on 29 October by Dr. David Owen, Minister of State for Health, is a new venture initiated by Hoskins Ltd. of Birmingham. It has been warmly welcomed by the British Overseas Trade Board as the first attempt to gather in one place some of the products of an important but highly fragmented industry. BOTB see the BHEDC as a potential focal point for overseas buyers of hospital equipment.

Yugoslavia: Technique for Environment '76

Yugoslavia is paying increased attention to the need for environmental protection and, to this end, they are mounting a new exhibition in Ljubljana – Technique for Environment '76 from 4-10 February next year. UK manufacturers within the environmental protection/anti-pollution field may wish to have a look at this exhibition in order to establish what is on offer, and the requirements of this potential market for their products.

The British Overseas Trade Board will not be organising a joint venture to this first-time event, but further information on this exhibition may be obtained from Ing Marjan Tepina, Gospodarsko Razstavisce, Ljubljana Fair, Yugoslavia, tel. Centrala 311-022, telex 31127-YU-GR.

The Country Desk contact in the Department of Trade's Fairs and Promotions Branch is Mr. A. E. Reid, (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 604).

Engineering and technology exhibition in Hong Kong

An all-British Engineering and Technology Exhibition will take place in Hong Kong from 8-16 November, with 93 British companies taking part or being represented. The exhibition has been organised by the British Overseas Trade Board to provide British industry with an opportunity to show engineering equipment and related products for the Hong Kong market.

Products on display will include industrial research instruments, machine control equipment, centre lathes, vertical and horizontal drills, water pollution control equipment, a wide variety of machine tools, a range of weighing machines and drawing office equipment. Also being promoted are professional consultancy services, banking, shipping and technical books; 23 British publishers are exhibiting.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842.

Missions and Tours

Bank of England Governor to lead Venezuela mission

The Governor of the Bank of England, Gordon Richardson, will lead a top level City of London group attending a joint Anglo-Venezuelan financial seminar in Caracas from 19-21 November.

The Seminar, which is being organised by the Committee on Invisible Exports in co-operation with the British Overseas Trade Board and the Economic Affairs Committee at Canning House in London, and with the Venezuelan Central Bank and the British Embassy in Caracas, will explore the future relationships between the institutions of the City of London and the financial and commercial sectors of Caracas.

City speakers at the Conference will include: Sir Jeremy Morse, deputy Chairman, Lloyd's Bank Limited; Mr. J. Dundas Hamilton, deputy Chairman, London Stock Exchange; Mr. J. D. Wolfensohn, Group Chief Executive and deputy Chairman, Schroders Limited; Geoffrey Dodsworth, MP, Chairman Equipment Leasing Association; the Hon. Hugo Kindersley, Director, Lazard Brothers and Co. Ltd.; Mr. A. A. Montague Browne, Managing Director, Gerrard and National Discount Co. Ltd.; Mr. Paul Jeanty, deputy Chairman, Samuel Montagu and Co. Ltd.; Mr. S. M. Yassukovich, Managing Director, European Banking Co. Ltd.; and Mr. R. J. Arnold, Executive Director, Willis, Faber and Dumas Ltd.

William Clarke, Director of the Committee on Invisible Exports, who will also be attending, explained that the purpose of the seminar was to promote financial relations between London and Caracas and, at the same time, to discover new ways in which Britain's invisible earnings might benefit. His present hopes were that around 50 leading representatives from the City of London would accompany the speakers to Caracas. The main Venezuelan speakers, he said, would include the Governor of the Central Bank of Venezuela. Dr. Alfred Lafee, Vice-President of the Central Bank, Dr. Carlos Rafael Silva, and the President of the Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce, Mr. W. Phelan.

The main topics to be discussed will include banking services, project finance, and international leasing; the development of a domestic capital market and a money market; eurodollars and foreign exchange; re-insurance; and shipping services.

Australian power plant engineers in Britain

Two senior electrical engineers of the Victoria State Electricity Commission are visiting Britain until 13 November, as guests of the British Overseas Trade Board.

The visitors are Mr. R. D. Wilson, Principal Design Engineer of the SEC, and Mr. R. F. Williamson, Senior Project Engineer, Loy Yang. Both are involved at a high level in the co-ordination and planning for the Loy Yang Power Station, Latrobe Valley, Victoria, a multi-million pound project, for which the SEC, an independent purchasing body, is expected to commission equipment in the early 1980's.

Their programme in Britain has been designed to enable the visitors to see at first hand what services and plant are available, and to pass on expected requirements for the Loy Yang venture. Among the topics in which they have expressed an interest are turbines, valves, high voltage motors, switch gear, quality control and programming and processing techniques. The major part of their visit will be spent in discussing these matters with senior management of British firms, including John Brown Engineering (Clyde Bank) Ltd., Reyrolle Parsons International Ltd., GEC Gas Turbine Generators Ltd., and Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd.

Trade mission visiting China

A six-firm mission is now visiting China at the invitation of MACHIMPEX, a State Trading Agency. The mission is jointly sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Engineering Industries Association.

The Chinese will be arranging a series of industrial visits for mission members and will also make appointments for them to see officials concerned with trade overseas, as well as with engineers and senior people in heavy industry. During their stay the party will visit the important Canton Fair.

Members of the mission which is led by Mr. R. E. Scott, Deputy Director and Export Director of Engineering Industries Association, are: Mr. Colin G. Burrett, GKN Birwelco (Uskside) Ltd.; Mr. J. Benson, Lansing Bagnall Ltd.; Mr. R. C. Bird, Petbow Ltd.; Mr. C. J. Stewart, Renold Ltd.; Mr. N. Coyne, Rubery Owen Conveyancer Ltd.; and Mr. P. B. Harrup, Strachan Henshaw Ltd.

Presidents' mission takes off for USA

Organised by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, a mission comprising presidents – or their equivalent – of 18 British Chambers set off for the USA on 29 October to study the potential for improving Britain's trading performance. The leader is Kenneth Millichap, deputy chairman of the ABCC's National Council and president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Among those taking part are chamber presidents from all main regions of Britain, individually drawn from a wide cross-section of industry and commerce. Collectively, they are the representatives of around one-third of Britain's business community.

In contrast to the more familiar trade mission organised by a single Chamber this event is not primarily concerned with specific export transactions; its purpose is wider. The presidents' mission has three main objectives: to exchange information businessman-to-businessman on the present and future trading relationship of the two countries; to seek guidelines by which future efforts to improve British trade can most usefully be steered; and to strengthen the long-standing, non-political and world-embracing ties of the chamber of commerce movement.

The programme for the mission, in which the British diplomatic posts have played a major part, takes it to the United State's three largest centres of trading outside New York – Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago. In each of these centres the mission is meeting chambers of commerce and other organisations, and gaining inside knowledge with which to shape future efforts to improve the trading performance of British business in what is still its largest market.

Tayside Chamber in South Africa

Scottish businessman, Andrew S. Kyle, is the leader of a trade mission now in South Africa organised by Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

This is the fifth trade mission to South Africa organised by the Dundee and Tayside Chamber in the last eight years and consists of 14 firms covering a wide range of products including engineering, hydraulic, scientific instruments, specialised textiles including wall hessians, upholstery fabrics and leather goods.

Secretary/Manager of the mission is Charles W. Simms, Director of the Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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Exhibitions and Fairs

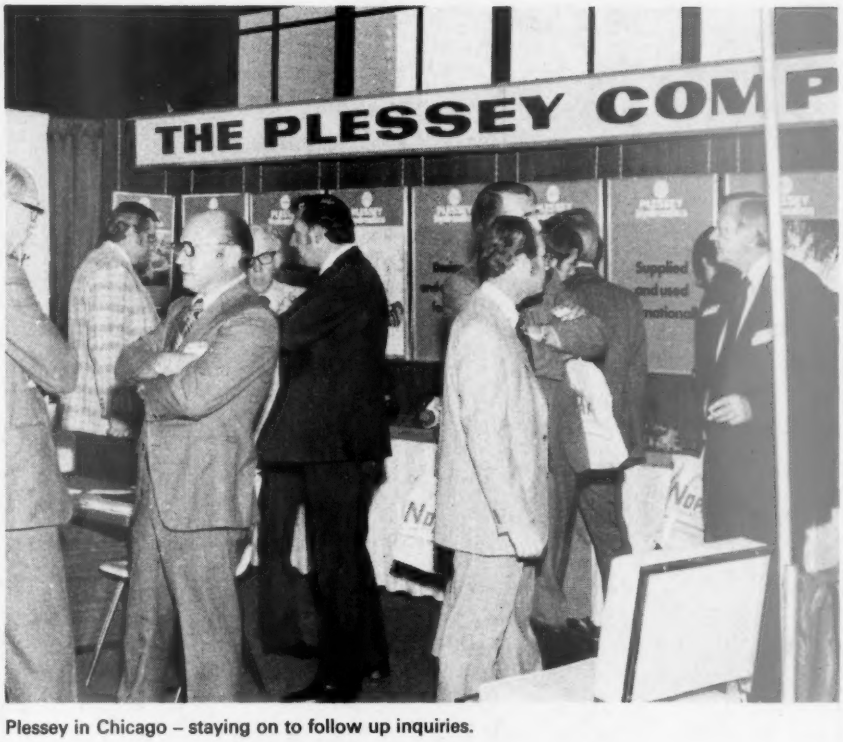
British hydraulic equipment makers expect increased exports to USA after Chicago

From R. D. Hey, Editor Hydraulic and Air-Engineering, in Chicago: British manufacturers of hydraulic equipment made a major marketing effort when they displayed a wide range of their products at the Hydraulics and Pneumatics Show which was held at McCormick Place, Chicago from 21 to 23 October. Ten UK companies participated in a British Overseas Trade Board joint venture stand organised in co-operation with the Association of Hydraulic Equipment Manufacturers, and first reports indicate that this operation was well timed to take advantage of the now anticipated upturn in demand for fluid power products in the United States.

Oil-hydraulic components provide the power actuation and control on many types of machinery used in construction, mechanical handling, agriculture, mining and industrial manufacturing and the demand from some of these sectors has obviously been reduced by the current recession. However, there were signs of optimism at the show and visitors from US machinery makers pointed out that stocks were now at a low level so that any pick up in demand – and some was foreseen within the next few months – should mean increased orders for the selected suppliers of hydraulic equipment. This is particularly important since the United States is the largest single market for fluid power equipment in the world with a demand which can be equated with the whole of the EEC requirements.

From a technical standpoint there is no doubt the British hydraulic equipment makers can meet the requirements of North American users but long term success also depends on competitive pricing, reliable delivery dates and intensive marketing. Some of the UK companies participating in this show can already report valuable sales in recent years and used the exhibition as a means of displaying their products to a wider audience.

A typical case is Plessey Hydraulics. This company is currently shipping gear pumps to leading US machinery makers such as Ford, Massey International and International Harvester with sales approaching $100,000 annually. During the show Plessey say they had over 80 inquiries from potential users and made contact with a number of other companies interested in distributing their valve and pump range in States where they are not at present represented. After the show, two of the company's senior executives, Roy Beresford and Ian Rollo, stayed on to follow up inquiries.



Plessey in Chicago – staying on to follow up inquiries.

The Lucas/Keelavite organisation found interest in their latest design of high pressure axial piston pump

The Lucas group already have an extensive distributor organisation throughout the USA and current business in all types of hydraulic equipment is now approaching $750,000 per year. Inquiries at the show indicated that there is more business to be gained and the chief engineer of the hydraulics company Ray Edgehill, who was on the stand throughout the show to deal with technical queries, stayed on to provide a follow up with individual companies.

Prospects are also encouraging for Carron Hydraulics, who displayed a range of hydraulic motors of advanced design. About 1,000 motors have already been shipped to the States, some as a result of the company's participation in the joint venture scheme at the Hydraulics and Pneumatics Show in Philadelphia last year. But the main objective at this year's event was obtaining contacts to improve the distribution and Dennis Hepburn, managing director of Carron Hydraulics, is also staying on to undertake more detailed negotiations on the basis of the contacts which have been achieved.

Another joint venture stand holder was Dowty Seals Ltd., which had a combined display with a sister company in the Dowty group, Dowty Hydraulic Units. Between them, these two internationally known names in fluid power engineering, can offer the user a complete range of sealing products, high pressure gear and piston pumps and also complete hydrostatic transmissions. Dowty already have their own organisation in Canada, which is concerned with the sales of aircraft and hydraulic equipment, and a number of the company's Canadian engineers, who are of course familiar with many of the requirements of the North American market, were on the stand to give technical advice to potential customers. Dowty saw the show as a valuable opportunity for displaying their products to US engineers and discussing applications.

Rapid results cannot be expected from this type of exhibition but undoubtedly the British companies taking part were well pleased with the initial response to showing their products in Chicago and believe that substantial orders should result from this in the longer term.

EXPORTING TO THE U.S.A.

The well known *Morton reports on US industry* are now available in Britain. The reports provide detailed statistical information and forecasts on a wide range of profitable American markets. The Morton publications are on sale at very economic prices, much below the cost of specially commissioned market studies, from the sole UK distributors, Kraushar, Andrews & Eassie Ltd., 32 Fitzroy Square, London W.1. (Tel. 01-387 7882.) A full list of the reports published in the last 18 months is shown below.

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British firms well satisfied, Copenhagen

The Castle Associate stand at Elektronik '75 in Copenhagen. His Excellency the British Ambassador to Denmark, Sir Andrew Stark (right) is talking to two company representatives.

From M. V. Helle, British Embassy, Commercial Department, Copenhagen: Electronics industries are receiving more than usual attention in Denmark this year because of the coincidence of the 50th anniversary of the Danish State Broadcasting Corporation and the Danish Electronics Manufacturers Association. In September this year the impressive Bella Centre exhibition halls in Copenhagen were inaugurated with the consumer electronics exhibition Radio-TV '75, and, one month later, from 10-16 October, the Bella Centre staged the professional electronics fair – Elektronik '75.

In a country poor on raw materials but rich on highly skilled labour, the electronics industry becomes a natural contributor to a country's economy! In Denmark the electronics industry ranks third amongst export earning industries. Consequently Elektronik '75, which was a closed trade fair, attracted a lot of attention, not least from foreign manufacturers of instruments and components who are of vital importance to the Danish industry for the supply of parts and instruments not manufactured locally. Danish imports of electronic components and equipment are worth around £260 million annually and exceed Denmark's own exports of electronic products by about 30 per cent.

The international electronics fair attracted some 23,000 visitors, mainly from Denmark and the other Scandinavian countries. Attendance was well above expectation and was by all exhibitors described as very good. Most visitors were professional buyers or development engineers from Danish electronics companies, but there were also many buyers from the public sector looking out for the latest electronic equipment.

The fair seemed to reflect a growing optimism within an industry which has been suffering badly from the present recession.

The 12,000m² exhibition area was divided into 220 stands, but typically for the Danish market, these represented at least 1,200 manufacturers from all over the world. There were large contingents from West Germany, the USA, Switzerland and Sweden; Britain was represented by about 250 firms. Eight of these took part in a joint venture sponsored by SIRA and the Department of Trade in London.

Companies at the joint venture were well satisfied with the outcome of the exhibition. All had received good inquiries and one or two had also taken test orders. Three or four of the British companies came to Copenhagen with the main object of finding an agent and this they achieved.

Two important points were noted at the exhibition and should be borne in mind when British firms register for participation in future exhibitions of this kind. One is that in spite of its title, the International Electronics Fair in Copenhagen is primarily a national event as regards attendance, with about 75 per cent of the visitors being Danish and the remaining 25 per cent Swedish or Norwegian. The international aspect reflects mainly the many manufacturers who exhibit through their Danish importers or agents. Exhibitors who came to Copenhagen aiming at an international clientele were less satisfied than those exhibitors who were aiming exclusively at the Danish (or Scandinavian) market.

The second point worth noting is that the electronics fair is just that, and the visitors are either electronics manufacturers interested in seeing components and measuring instruments, or potential customers wanting to buy electronic equipment. Some exhibitors brought equipment that was mainly aimed at process control and other industries and it was noticeable that they had received less visitors and inquiries than their colleagues who aimed at the electronics industry. British firms considering participation at these specialised fairs shold be particularly careful about selecting the right exhibition for their purpose.

The next electronics exhibition in Copenhagen will be held in 1978.

Surface '75 draws the crowds in Basle

From H. M. Shone, HM Consul, British Consulate, Basle: The International Exhibition for Surface Treatment was held in Basle from 30 September to 4 October and drew crowds, some 7,500 visitors. Although this figure is just below that for the last Surface in 1972 it should be borne in mind that last time the fair was open for seven days, but this year it only lasted five.

Five British firms and the sponsoring trade association, the Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre were on the joint venture stand with bright and colourful displays.

The fair was spread over a large floor area, probably larger than necessary, and this gave the impression that there were fewer visitors than in fact passed through the turnstiles and probably accounted for the somewhat pessimistic first impressions from the exhibitors.

The picture, however, changed by the end of the fair and most of the firms expressed satisfaction. Many indeed were well pleased, and one had sold all the machines on their stand. We hope to see them back at the next Surface which is planned for autumn 1978.

Growing internationalism of Nairobi Show

From R. M. Adey, Commercial Department, British High Commission, Nairobi: That, for our exhibitors at least, large crowds are not necessary for a successful show, was shown by the joint venture on the British Pavilion at Nairobi Show which closed its gates to the public recently. The organisers of this annual event increased the admission charges by 50 per cent this year, and the effect upon attendance was very marked.

However, those deterred by higher charges are unlikely to be major buyers of our goods, and all those that mattered still came to be able to enjoy the show in considerably greater comfort than in the past. The general concensus of opinion among those of our exhibitors who have shown in previous years was that the level and quality of inquiries was better than ever before, and I know that more than one exhibitor new to the African market was pleasantly surprised by the number of contacts made.

Sponsored jointly by the Agricultural Engineers Association and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, some 20 stands displayed a variety of goods and services. However, as is only appropriate for this show, which started life many years ago as an agricultural event but has since broadened its appeal to include consumer and industrial exhibits, the main emphasis was on agricultural equipment. Kenya is a country dependant upon agriculture for over two-thirds of its GNP, and requirements for equipment vary from the most sophisticated for estate and primary processor's use to the simple, low cost implements for the increasing number of small-holders. Both ends of this market were catered for in our pavilion.

Gunsons Sortex Ltd., chose Nairobi Show to launch their new ultra-violet light coffee-sorting machine. Developed jointly with the East African Industrial Research Organisation, this removes 'stinker' coffee beans undetectable by any other method, thus upgrading the product and increasing the price to the producer. This example of advanced technology, which Kenya, already renowned for the quality of its coffee, will be the first country to use commercially, should achieve excellent world-wide sales in a field in which Britain leads the world.

David Pryse of British Demblon Equipment indicates the versatility of his large-scale cultivating machine to the Deputy Director of Fairs and Promotions Branch, Ken Green, during the Nairobi Show.

In a different way, the massive ground-cultivating equipment shown by British Demblon (whose major market is the USA where they really ought to know about large-scale farm equipment), and the Dolphin irrigator shown by Farrow Irrigation, which is capable of irrigating 10 acres automatically in a single 100-yards-wide sweep, are also examples of the sort of equipment which Kenya is ready to absorb on large-scale units.

Advanced technology can often be particularly appropriate to developing countries. Apart from the coffee-sorting machine mentioned earlier, Lucas Service Overseas proved this by showing solar cells for the direct generation of electrical power, which have great potential for the remote, unserviced areas which exist in such countries as Kenya. Remote, unserviced areas also imply hard-living: Benjamin Edgington were on our pavilion showing tents and camping equipment to soften the rigours of such conditions.

One aspect of Nairobi Show which has impressed me over the years in which I have been administering the British Pavilion is its growing internationalism. This year, as in the past, the British Government invited a group of guests with significant purchasing influence from nearby countries, and undoubtedly most of our exhibitors valued the contacts made through this scheme. But also the number of visitors travelling independently from such countries seemed to increase significantly this year, and we know that a number of exhibitors were able to establish useful links with such people.

All the evidence suggests that, over the many years we have maintained a Pavilion here, British firms who have taken part have found it an exceptionally successful way of introducing their product to potential agents and to the public at large. The show itself is unique in Africa north of the Zambesi because of its size and the international aspect mentioned earlier. Kenya, despite balance-of-payments problems, is a good market for the right products, and apart from this the showground itself, set as it is in mature indigenous woodland, and other easily reachable scenic attractions make participation pleasant as well as profitable.

First Ibero-American exhibition on the environment

From Nicolas Escudero, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Madrid: The First Ibero-American Congress on the Environment, held at the modern Palacio de Congresos in Madrid from 13-18 October, provided the opportunity for one of Spain's first exhibitions on pollution control equipment. This took place in a special area of the congress hall and was visited by many congress participants. Most of the 24 exhibiting firms were visited by the Duke of Cádiz who opened the exhibition.

Six British exhibitors took part, four of them in the joint venture arranged by the British Overseas Trade Board and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The joint venture occupied about 20 per cent of the exhibition area, and formed the only nationally-sponsored group of exhibitors.

Some well-established British manufacturers of anti-pollution equipment were exhibiting, together with specialist consulting engineers. The quality of the technical development and modern design of their exhibits made an excellent impression on visitors to the stands, of whom a high proportion were specialists.

Bestel Dean Ltd. of Manchester, one of the joint venture firms with about £3,000 worth of equipment on its stand, was able to leave behind sampling equipment worth £1,680, sold to the Madrid Municipal Authorities, with the prospect of much larger follow-up sales next year. Most firms reported great interest and as a consequence of the exhibition all the British firms established promising contacts with Spanish potential agents and customers.

To mark the exhibition a reception was held at the British Embassy for exhibitors, agents, Spanish Government representatives and leading Spanish and British businessmen interested in pollution control equipment.

'Britain salutes Baltimore' fortnight

From David Peterson, Commercial Officer, British Embassy, Washington D.C.: During September, 161 years after some minor quarrelling between our nation and the citizens of Baltimore, the British once again invaded Baltimore, not bearing arms but rather goodwill and merchandise. Stewart and Co., a store within the Associated Dry Goods group, featured a fortnight of British products in several of their stores for the two-week period, 15-27 September.

This was the first official store promotion specifically commemorating the forthcoming Bicentennial year. There was, therefore, a good deal of cultural input. The promotion commenced with a cocktail reception and grand opening ceremony, co-sponsored by HM Ambassador to America, Sir Peter Ramsbotham, and Mr. Charles Heller, President, Stewart and Co.

Many British craftsmen were on hand throughout the two-week period to entertain and instruct. Fine paintings and sculpture by British artists, on loan from the Madden Gallery in London, were on view to the pleasure of many.

Part of the effort to get Baltimorians involved in celebrating the relationship between their nation and ours was a well attended soccer game between the British Embassy Lions and the University of Baltimore, a top rank American college team. There was also a major rugby game between arch rival Baltimore teams sponsored by Stewart and Co. Vice Admiral Sir Ian Easton, Head of the British Defence Staff in Washington, was on hand to present a trophy to the winner.

The primary thrust featured British goods, and, as a merchandising effort, the promotion was regarded by all as very successful and represented significant new buying by Stewart and Co.

Featured in the stores were a Fortnum and Mason shop, tartans by Kinloch-Anderson, and the latest in autumn and winter fashions by Jaeger. Aynsley china decorators were on hand to entice the customers, as were Wedgwoods's 'Choice of President' exhibit and exquisite bone china in the 'Proud Tradition' series by Royal Doulton. Local appreciation for the high quality associated with British goods was borne out by the fact that at the end of the first 10 days of the promotion many departments within the stores were sold out of British products.

Directly as a result of this promotion, sales for Stewart and Co. were reported much higher than previous months. In fact management is so pleased that, in the future, they will undoubtedly look more to Britain for sources of supply.

Among other cultural events sponsored by Stewart and Co. during the 'Britain Salutes Baltimore' fortnight, the Baltimore City Pipe Band and the 71st Highland Regiment were called out to give a special welcome to Peter Maxwell Stuart, 20th Laird of Traquair. Mr. Maxwell Stuart was the special guest for this celebration.

British companies first and only foreign participants at Tokyo show

From E. J. Field, First Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Tokyo: Thanks to the efforts of the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association, the Tokyo Scientific Instrument Show was opened for the first time to direct foreign participation and the 16 British companies formed the first – and only – group of foreign participants. With a well-designed stand right at the entrance to the exhibition, the British exhibit attracted attention and much favourable comment.

Reflecting its growing success the exhibition which took place from 6-10 October moved for the first time to the big International Trade Centre at Harumi in Tokyo. A total of 272 companies took part and attracted just over 40,000 visitors.

First opportunity

Although many of the British companies had been represented in Japan for several years, this was their first opportunity to exhibit their products directly to Japanese customers. It was the unanimous opinion of the British group that this operation had been well worthwhile and, judging from the level of inquiries, should provide a good boost to exports next year. Exhibitors felt that the interest shown in their products indicated that the level of activity in the Japanese economy should increase next year.

Among the exhibitors, Chemlab Instruments and H. Tinsley and Co., had participated in last year's Pollution Control and Instrumentation Exhibition at the British Export Marketing Centre, and found this follow-up action very profitable. Other companies, such as Houseman Hegro, MSE Scientific Instruments and Carbolite, reported keen interest and expect a satisfactory level of orders in the next year. Carbolite in particular was able to introduce a wider range of furnaces and this should increase their market share in due course. L. Oertling Ltd. is making a major effort to promote the company's precision balances in a market where there is no competition from domestic manufacturers, and the exhibition provided an excellent showcase.

Warm welcome

The British exhibitors were given a warm welcome by their Japanese counterparts and a lavish reception was arranged by the Tokyo Scientific Instruments Association at a leading Tokyo restaurant.

The Secretary of State for Energy, Tony Benn, who was in Japan at the time of the exhibition, was able to visit the British stand and talk to exhibitors.

Secretary of State for Energy, Tony Benn (centre), visits the stand of the Carbolite Co. at the Tokyo Scientific Instruments Show.

Trade Information

Mozambique: Visas

Intending visitors to Mozambique should submit applications for visas to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO Box 290, Av. Antonio Enes No 4, Lourenco Marques (tel. 741126, telex 6418 A/B MINES). Applications should state the proposed date of arrival, length of stay and purpose of visit. As much time as possible must be allowed for the processing of applications and intending visitors are advised to apply for their visas well in advance. Inquiries : CRE tel. 01-215 5794.

Sri Lanka: Business visits in August 1976

Businessmen are advised that no hotel accommodation will be available in the Colombo area during the period of the Non-Aligned Summit Conference to be held in August 1976. Hotel accommodation will be required for the 1,400 delegates. Indications are that the conference will be held from 16-19 August 1976. Firm dates will be published as soon as they are known. Ref. CRE 44601. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5278.

Peter Shore to visit Mexico and Cuba

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, is to visit Mexico from 7 to 12 November and Cuba from 12 to 16 November for talks on trade and economic subjects.

Mr. Shore's visit to Cuba will immediately follow the first meeting of the Anglo-Cuban Joint Commission which has been set up to develop economic and industrial co-operation between the two countries. Mr. Shore will be the first member of a British Cabinet to visit Cuba since 1959.

In Mexico Mr. Shore will meet Ministers responsible for foreign affairs, industry, commerce and finance, as well as the heads of a number of State economic organisations and members of the Mexican and British business community.

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Tel: 0703 32461/4
Telex: 477091

ECGD News

Czechoslovak line of credit increased by £1 million

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed an increase to £4 million for the line of credit which National Westminster Bank made available last year to Ceskoslovenska Obchidni Bank, Czechoslovakia. The original £2 million has been fully used for contracts which include grinding machinery, ice-cream manufacturing equipment, boring machinery and stress testing equipment.

To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £5,000 and be placed by 31 January 1977.

Exporters interested in further details of this facility should contact either Mrs. C. S. Muckersie of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 7313), or Mr. M. L. Preece, of National Westminster Bank (tel. 01-606 1080, ext. 346).

Two BAC1-11's for Philippine Airlines

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a loan of £3.3 million which Lloyds Bank Ltd. has made available to Philippine Airlines Inc. The loan will help finance the purchase of two second-hand BAC1-11 aircraft plus additional spare Rolls-Royce Spey engines and other spare parts from British Aircraft Corporation.

The aircraft have been reconditioned at BAC's factory at Hurn Airport, Bournemouth.

Gelatin factory for Poland

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £3.6 million loan which Barclays Bank has made available to Bank Handlowy w Warszawie, Poland.

The loan will help finance a contract awarded to P. Leiner and Sons Ltd., of South Wales, by Polimex Cekop for the supply of a gelatin manufacturing plant to be built at Pulawy in eastern Poland.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Algeria, Finland, Iceland, Hungary, Spain, Dominican Republic, India and Bangladesh have been published in the 'Hints to Business Men' series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05-09, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7146, or any Regional Office of the Department of Industry.

Import duty relief for exporters (Section 7 relief)

Customs and Excise have issued a revised Notice No. 221. It describes the arrangements for giving relief from duties and charges on goods exported after processing or repair and goods exported in the same state as at import which are within the scope of duty relief provided by Section 7, Import Duties Act 1958. The new notice consolidates the text in Notices Nos. 221 (December 1972), 221A, 221B and 223, which are now superseded, and incorporates some new material.

The notice includes the changes arising on 1 January 1976 when the protective element in the customs duties on spirits, beer, wine, hydrocarbon oil, matches and mechanical lighters will become separate duties charged under the Import Duties Act 1958. Duty relief will apply on these goods as for all other goods covered by notice 221. Section 7 relief will not however apply to the revenue raising element of these goods which will, from 1 January 1976, become chargeable with an excise duty.

The notice also takes account of EEC Directive 73/349 on equivalence and anticipation equivalence. These changes which have effect from 1 January 1976 will only marginally affect existing UK procedures.

Copies of the new notice are obtainable from local offices of Customs and Excise and from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour, Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

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Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers.

HMSO BOOKS

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No 1520: Imports of textiles from Malaysia – revised arrangements

Note: The arrangements set out in this Notice supersede the existing quota arrangements for textiles from Malaysia.

The Community has negotiated and initialled an Agreement with Malaysia on trade in textiles for the period 1 November 1975 to 31 December 1976 and the calendar year 1977. The Agreement provides for voluntary restraint to keep at agreed levels exports to the Community of certain textile products intended for domestic consumption. Pending announcement of Community legislation to conclude the Agreement its provisions are being operated *de facto* as set out in the following paragraphs. Should the subsequent legislation result in any change in the provisions outlined here, however, a further Notice to Importers will be issued.

Scope of the Agreement and quantitative levels to be applied under Community arrangements. The textile items covered by the Agreement and the levels to be adhered to by Malaysia in respect of exports to the United Kingdom are set out in the Annex to this Notice. The Malaysian authorities will administer the quotas by issuing to Malaysian exporters export certificates endorsed to the effect that the consignment has been debited to the agreed ceiling for export to the EEC. These certificates will be sent on to United Kingdom importers who should submit them, together with a completed form ILB/A, to Import Licensing Branch, who will issue import licences up to the appropriate overall quota limit. Applications for licences for goods which can be shown to have been shipped to the United Kingdom before 1 November will be considered outside the quotas; such applications should be made to Import Licensing Branch on form ILB/A, and accompanied by a copy of the Bill of Lading or Air Waybill. Surveillance licences issued in respect of man-made fibre fabrics and of woven shirts covered by tariff headings 56-07A and 61.03 respectively from Malaysia have been revoked with effect from 7 November 1975.

Existing UK restrictions on textiles from Malaysia that are not affected by the Community arrangements. Interim arrangements pending completion of the Community arrangements for imports of woven cotton textiles from Malaysia for the period 1 January to 30 September 1975 were set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1474 and 1491. Cotton yarn and some cotton textiles whose levels of export to the UK are currently restrained are not, however, covered by the EEC/Malaysia Agreement. The existing import arrangements for these goods are unaffected by the EEC arrangements and the licensing requirements remain effective for the time being. A further announcement about future quota levels and import arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

Imports for re-export. Imports of restricted textiles from Malaysia will not be set off against the quotas if they are re-exported *outside the EEC* in the same state or after limited

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processing. The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the UK are set out in Notice to Importers No. 1441.

UK import surveillance. In addition to the textiles covered by this Notice, most other textiles from Malaysia and other non-EEC countries are subject to UK surveillance arrangements. Descriptions of these goods and the licensing arrangements are set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1484 and 1502.

Inquiries to Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 271.

ANNEX
Textiles originating in Malaysia – UK quota levels under Community arrangements

Tariff heading	Description of goods	UK quota levels Nov. 1975-Dec. 1976	1977
55.09 56.07A	Outer woven fabrics of cotton Woven fabrics of synthetic textile fibres (discontinuous)	1,341 tonnes *of which* not more than 875 tonnes for either category 55.09 or 56.07A *and* of which not more than 263 tonnes for fabric other than grey or bleached in either category	1,219 tonnes *of which* not more than 795 tonnes for either category *and* of which not more than 239 tonnes for fabric other than grey or bleached in either category
ex 61.03	Men's and boys' shirts	117,000 pieces	150,000 pieces

Suspension of anti-dumping duty on unwrought magnesium

The Department of Trade, after reviewing the current market situation, has made an Order suspending for a period of 12 months the anti-dumping duty of £62 per tonne of imports of unwrought magnesium originating in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The duty was imposed from 18 April 1972 by the Anti-Dumping Duty Order 1972, which was superseded by the Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Order 1973.

The new Order, the Anti-Dumping Duty (Temporary Suspension) (No. 5) Order (SI 1975 No. 1741/1975) comes into operation on 24 November. Before the end of the period of suspension the situation will be re-examined. Copies of the Order can be obtained from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 (price 8p), or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (price 14½p).

Woodfibre insulating board from Czechoslovakia, Finland, Norway, Poland and Sweden – extension of anti-dumping investigation

The Department of Trade has decided to extend to Czechoslovakia, Finland and Sweden its current investigation into allegations that woodfibre insulating board is being imported from Norway and Poland at prices which constitute dumping and that, as a result, the British industry is suffering material injury.

The announcement of the original investigation was made on 17 October 1975.

Any representations in connection with this investigation, other than from foreign suppliers with whom special arrangements will be made, should be submitted in writing not later than 14 November 1975. Such representations, in summarised form and without attribution to the source, may be passed to the applicants for comment. Those making the representations should stipulate any particular matters which they do not wish to be disclosed.

These representations should be sent to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 348, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Application for reimposition of import duty on EEC goods and associated reductions of duty on non-EEC goods

The Department of Trade has received an application for the reimposition of the United Kingdom 'M' and 'full' rate of duties with effect from 1 January 1976 on the following item. This is in response to the notice of the Annual Review in *Trade and Industry* on 22 August 1975.

Tariff heading	Description	Reference
29.36	Toluenesulphonamide, mixed isomers, containing not less than 50 per cent by weight and not more than 60 per cent by weight of toluene-4-sulphonamide	T 14180

Representations should be addressed to Department of Trade, General Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, giving the reference shown above. These should be received by 21 November 1975.

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Tariff and Trade Notices

Belgium

Soft drinks: foodstuffs regulations. The *Moniteur Belge* No. 198, 14 October 1975, published a decree dated 15 September 1975, concerning soft drinks. The decree enters into force on 1 January 1976. An English translation is being prepared but copies of the decree (in French) are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Netherlands

Helmets decree. Decree of 28 August 1975 (*Staatsblad* 517), published on 16 October 1975, contains the Helmets Decree (Commodity Law). This refers to approval of helmets worn by motorcyclists and their passengers. The decree came into force from 18 October 1975. Copies of the decree (in Dutch) are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Luxembourg

Edible oils: foodstuffs regulations. The Luxembourg *Memorial* A57, 8 September 1975, published a decree dated 4 August 1975, concerning edible oils. The decree enters into force on 8 March 1976. An English translation is being prepared but copies of the decree (in French) are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Austria

Shirts from Korea: quota arrangements. The Austrian Ministry for Trade, Commerce and Industry announced in *Bundesgesetzblatt* 486, 23 September 1975, that it has been agreed, in accordance with the GATT arrangements regarding international trade in textiles, that direct and/or indirect exports of woven shirts of discontinuous synthetic fibres from the Republic of Korea to Austria will be limited to 850,000 pieces during the period 1 August 1975 to 31 July 1976. The term 'woven shirts of discontinuous synthetic fibres' includes shirts containing 50 per cent or more by weight of such fibres. Upon presentation of export recommendations issued by the Korean authorities on the basis of irrevocable letters of credit for such goods, the competent Austrian authorities will licence the corresponding import. OTAR ext. 458/461.

Sweden

Textile imports: surveillance licensing. Information has been received that the Swedish Government intends to introduce surveillance licensing on imports of certain textile and garment products on 1 January 1976. Further notices will be issued as detailed information becomes available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Further Information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Footwear: import quota system. The Swedish Government introduced on 5 November 1975 a global quota system for imports of leather shoes, plastic shoes and rubber boots. The system will be applied to all imports, except those from state trading countries for which special restrictive arrangements already exist. The global quotas will be determined on the basis of average imports for the period 1972/74. The following items will be included:

Tariff heading	Description	Swedish statistical no.
ex 64.01	High boots and ankle boots with outer soles of rubber or plastic and with uppers of rubber	64.01.120
ex 64.01	Footwear with outer soles of rubber or of plastic material and with uppers of plastic material, other than slippers	64.01.203-209
ex 64.02	Footwear with outer soles of leather, composition leather, rubber or artificial plastic material and with uppers of leather other than slippers and footwear with inner soles of wood and outer soles of other material	64.02.200-318

Items which can be shown to have been in transit on or earlier than 4 November will fall outside this new measure.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Israel

Purchase tax amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued amendments to the rates of purchase tax affecting a wide range of goods. British exporters requiring further information should state the goods they are interested in and address inquiries to OTAR ext. 458/461.

Portland cement and fuel products: price control. The Israeli authorities have issued an order fixing the price of Portland cement and fuel products. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

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Kathleen Dick is one of 50 women in the Glenrothes factory of Hughes Microelectronics Ltd. who are literally chained to their task – the assembly of digital electronic watch modules, orders for which have now passed the £1 million mark. The chains, all connected to 'earth' bars under the work benches, are necessary to prevent accumulation of static electricity which could seriously damage the MOS integrated circuits during the assembly operations. Many of these operations are so intricate that they have to be performed under a microscope. Heart of the electronic watch module is a tiny quartz crystal that beats a constant 786,432 times a second and gives the watch its accuracy. The modules are being exported to watch makers in European countries, including Germany, Spain and even the home of the watch industry – Switzerland.

An artist puts the finishing touches to the Imperial Iranian Air Force livery of a Husky model helicopter in the workshop of Aeronautical and General Modelmakers Ltd., Hounslow, Middlesex. The model is one of a repeat order for 40 being made by the company of aircraft of different types for the Iranian Government, for inclusion in a display on the history of the Iranian Air Force at a new museum in Tehran.

Liberia

Powdered detergent: import ban. Information has been received from the British Embassy in Monrovia of the following notice issued by the Liberian Ministry for Industry.

'The public in general is hereby notified that the Government of Liberia has instituted a complete ban on the importation of all synthetic powdered detergents by an Act of the Liberian Legislature published on 24 June 1975. This restriction, however, does not include liquid detergents, cleansing and scouring powder such as (rtm) Vim, (rtm) Ajax, etc. Strict adherence to this Legislation is mandatory.' Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

Zambia

Ban on COD parcels. Further to the notice in *Trade and Industry* last week, information has been received that following approaches to the Bank of Zambia, any parcels on which a commitment can be proved before 7 October (the date of the AD Circular announcing the ban) will be accepted, as long as these are collected by the customer. Orders originated and despatched between 7 and 16 October (the date on which notification of the ban was received) will be treated on their merits. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5794.

South Africa

Iron or steel tubes and pipes: tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 691, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 31 October 1975, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on certain tubes and pipes or iron or steel classifiable under tariff subheadings 73.18.65, 73.18.95, and 73.18.75.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association. If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Tunisia

Electrical accumulators (batteries): import ban lifted. The Tunisian *Official Journal*, 19 September 1975, announced that the import of electrical accumulators (batteries) mounted on vehicles (falling within heading 87.01 and 87.02) is no longer prohibited. No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 461.

Apples: duty suspended. The Tunisian *Official Journal*, 19 September 1975, announced that customs duties on apples (BN 08.06) are suspended within a quota of up to 1,000 tons. No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 461.

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Australia

Welding, consumables and flux cored solder: draft report released. The Industries Assistance Commission in Australia has released copies of its draft report on welding consumables and flux cored solder, a sub-division of their inquiry into electronic and electrical goods.

The Commission recommends that all goods under reference be dutiable at minimum rates – that is to say, free – subject to trade treaty obligations.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearing on Wednesday, 26 November, in Canberra, should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia, without delay through their accredited agent, or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-799 7447), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The Association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member. Ref. CRE 2371/72. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

Edible and industrial vegetable oils: request for protection. The Department of Manufacturing Industry in Australia has received a request for temporary protection against imports of edible and industrial vegetable oils, tariff items 15.07, 15.08.

Requests for temporary protection are received initially by the Department of Manufacturing Industry and, after examination, are submitted to the Special Minister of State for consideration. The Special Minister of State may refer the request to a Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report. Any temporary protection which may be accorded on the recommendation of the Temporary Assistance Authority is in the nature of a holding action pending Government consideration of the general question of protection for local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that the Australian Prime Minister has made it clear that should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries goods ordered overseas but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the announcement, will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers have been urged therefore to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders, as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the Government. Ref. CRE 2146/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.

Olives: Temporary Assistance Authority reference. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 11 July 1975, reported that the Department of Manufacturing Industry in Australia had received a request for temporary protection against the importation of olives. This request has now been referred to the Temporary Assistance Authority and covers the following tariff items 07.01, 07.02 (other than for olive oil), 07.03 or sub-items 20.01.3, 20.01.4, 20.01.5, 20.02.2, or 20.02.6. Ref. CRE 1551/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.

Working gloves of leather or composition leather: Temporary Assistance Authority recommendation. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 19 September 1975, reported a reference to the Temporary Assistance Authority on whether urgent action should be taken to protect the Australian industry against the importation of industrial leather gloves. The Authority has completed its inquiry and recommends that no urgent action is necessary. Ref. CRE 1558/75. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Industries Assistance Commission recommendations accepted. The Australian Government has accepted the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission as set out in the reports of their inquiries into Tanned and finished leather: dressed fur; Floor and wall tiles. Full details of any tariff changes will be published as soon as they are available.

Malic acid: dumping. Anti-dumping action has been requested against imports of malic acid from several countries including the UK. Further details will be published as soon as they are available, but in the meantime, Australian customs officials in the UK have been asked to carry out inquiries to establish the normal value. Ref. CRE 2147/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.

Aluminium powders and pastes: dumping. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 7 January 1970, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question whether aluminium powders and pastes were being sold in Australia at a price less than the normal value in the country of exportation, and if so whether the importation of those goods was causing or threatening injury to Australian industry. The Industries Assistance Commission completed its inquiry and submitted a report to the Government recommending dumping duty on imports between 1 March 1969 and 30 June 1973. The Australian Government however has not accepted these recommendations and announced that if dumped imports resume dumping duties will be imposed. Ref. CRE 2019/69. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

Children's flammable nightwear. Ordinance number 30 of the Australian Capital Territory relates to children's flammable nightwear and sets out the regulations governing the manufacture, marking and sale of these goods. Details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

New Zealand

Tariff and Development Board reports. Copies of the following New Zealand Tariff and Development Board reports are available from Commercial Relations and Exports Division:

Dead Poultry and edible offal thereof (tariff item 02.02.000)

Chlorine (tariff item 28.01.100)

Ref. CRE 511/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5321.

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United States

Prescription Drugs. The US Federal Trade Commission has announced dates and locations for public hearings on its proposed regulation on disclosure regulations concerning prices for prescription drugs. Details of the hearings are as follow:

1 December 1975 in Chicago (notification by 21 November 1975)
15 December 1975 in San Francisco (notification by 21 November 1975)
12 January 1976 in Washington (notification by 19 December 1975)

Interested parties are invited to submit comments, which should be made to the FTC by 21 November. Full details are available from CRE 01-215 5397.

Argentina

Exchange control: sectorial agreements on importation. The Argentinian Ministry of Commerce is in the process of signing a series of agreements with the various sectors of industry. These basically provide that in order to be able to import, these sectors must secure financing on terms ranging from 210, 240, 270, 300, 330 days, and up to 360 days or more from date of shipping.

The principal objective is to ensure that payment for imports is deferred until the end of the period stated in each Sectorial Agreement, and the average financing for each sector as a whole cannot be less than 240 days. It is stated clearly that no imports from any country, to any value, may be made outside the terms of the Agreement.

The main point is that in these sectors 180-days-sales are likely to be very few and, 180 days financing allowed only as an exception.

A list, provided by the Ministry of Commerce, of those sectors which have already signed agreements or, for the most part, are about to do so, is given below.

A further provision is that foreign firms established here engaged in the sector should, 'by swaps or other means maintain or increase their external financing to avoid as far as possible recourse to internal financing'.

There is an additional clause in the 'Health and pharmachemical' industry agreement (and in some others although we do not yet know which) that no remittances abroad of royalties, profits or payments for know-how will be made until 1 January 1976, and thereafter, as hitherto, only by the use of external bonds. It is made clear that the Central Bank will allocate a certain amount of foreign exchange for each sector's purchases abroad, an amount which can be increased according to the sector's export performance.

SECTORAL AGREEMENTS ON IMPORTATION
Argentine Federation of Health Industries
Federation of Pharma-Chemical Industries
Chamber of Cigarette Industry
Chamber of Manufacturers of Office Machinery and Equipment
Federation of the Argentine Liquour Industry
Chamber of Fabrics and Plastic Sackcloth Containers and Related Products
Association of Manufacturers of Linen and Hemp Fabrics
Association of Newspaper Publishers of the City of Buenos Aires
Argentine Association of Magazines Publishers
Argentine Book Chamber
Bag Manufacturers Union
Argentine Chamber of Manufacturers of Diamond Abrasives
Chamber of the Man-made Fabrics Industry
Argentine Association of Cork Industrialists
Chamber of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical and Mechanical Appliances
Argentine Chamber of Chemical Products
Federation of Soap and Related Industries
Chamber of Control Instruments and Apparatus
Motor Vehicle Association
Argentine Chamber of Representatives of Aniline Industries
Chamber of Manufacturers of Photo-sensitive Material
Chamber of the Tyre Industry
Argentine Chamber of Electronic Industries
Chamber of Paint Industry
Chamber of Manufacturers of Coated Abrasives
Argentine Association of Representatives of Foreign Chemical Industries
Argentine Chamber of the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Industries
Argentine Chamber of the Powder Metallurgical Industry
Association of Manufacturers of Batteries and Related Articles
Argentine Chamber of Corsetry Manufacturers
Association of Paper Manufacturers
Argentine Chamber of Tools and Measuring Instruments Manufacturers
Chamber of Glass Manufacturers – Argentine Chamber of Melted Glass Manufacturers
Argentine Chamber of Chrome Tinware
Chamber of Manufacturers of Road Building Machinery
Argentine Chamber of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers
Chamber of the Argentine Tanning Industry
Argentine Chamber of the Toilet Articles Industry
Chamber of Manufacturers of Sewing and Knitting Machinery
Argentine Chamber of Publications
Chamber of the Chemical Industry
Chamber of Manufacturers of Steel Pipes and Tubes
Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Dental Industry
Argentine Chamber of the Optical and Related Industries
Association of Manufacturers of Confectionery, Tinned and Related Goods
Chamber of Smelting Industries Manufacturers
Argentine Chamber of Manufacturers of Solid Abrasives
Chamber of Railway Manufacturers
Argentine Federation of the Rubber Industry
Association of Jute and Hard Fibres Industries
Argentine Chamber of the Electromechanical Industries
Argentine Chamber of Manufacturers of Industrial Machinery and Equipment
Argentine Chamber of Commercial, Office and Related Machinery
Association of Argentine Tractor Industries
Chamber of Manufacturers of Enamelled Steel Sheets and Related Products
Chamber of Flat Glass and its Manufactures
Federation of the Argentine Ceramics Industries
Argentine Association of Fibrecement (Asbestos)
Steel for Reselling
Iron Goods for Reselling
Essential Oil
The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the Argentine Republic (Exclusively for Books).

No further information is available at present. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Brazil

New import restrictions. Decree-law 1.421, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial*, 13 October 1975, increased the duty rates on a range of some 2,000 commodities. These include both luxury and intermediate products which were increased by 100 percentage points and 30 percentage points, respectively. Neither beverages nor perfumes were affected by the decree-law as the current rate of 205 per cent is the maximum accepted by the GATT agreements.

Goods imported from the LAFTA countries are not affected by the tariff increases nor are those from GATT countries when subject to tariff negotiations.

Goods which were embarked overseas up to the date the decree-law came into force (13 October 1975) will be customs-cleared according to the previous procedure.

The restrictions imposed by the decree-law will remain in force until 31 December 1976.

An unofficial translation of the decree-law and details of the tariff headings affected are available from OTAR ext. 476/474.

Paraguay

Motor vehicles: duty reductions and tariff amendments. Ministry of Finance decree 18,182 of 14 October 1975 partially modifies the tariff headings of BTN Chapter 87 and reduces the *ad valorem* customs duty, the additional and complementary taxes and the exchange surcharge on headings: 87.02, 87,03, 87.04 and 87.14. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

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European Community News

Shirley Williams puts the case for the consumer at Agriculture Council

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, put the case for the Community's own consumers being given priority in the disposal of Community food surpluses during the Agriculture Ministers' stocktaking Council in Luxembourg on 29-30 October. This was the first time that a minister specifically responsible for consumer interests had taken part in an Agriculture Council.

During the discussion on beef and dairy products, Mrs. Williams spoke of the need to consider the resource cost as well as the budgetary costs in determining policies which had hitherto led to the storage and subsidised export of commodities instead of their consumption at lower prices within the Community. On beef, for example, Mrs. Williams explained that the cost of the application of the Common Agricultural Policy intervention system in the UK for 1975/76 would entail a budgetary cost of some £80 million, while the equivalent cost of the premium scheme would be £17 million more – at some £97 million – but would be more than balanced by a consumer gain of about £200 million. This, she added, represented a net consumer gain of £183 million. Similarly, amassing surplus stocks of dairy products represented a waste of resources as well as involving substantial budgetary costs.

Applying the resource cost argument to butter, Mrs. Williams said the UK dairy trade had forecast that butter consumption could fall dramatically in Britain as a result of aligning the British butter price with the full Community price according to the transitional arrangements negotiated in the Treaty of Accession. The butter mountain could then reappear and the cost to the Community of having to dispose of it at rock bottom prices to other parts of the world would be very high.

Mrs. Williams suggested that one answer would be to raise the Community subsidy on butter sales, but even more important would be restraint in the annual fixing of Community prices in order to restrain excess production.

Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, also criticised the current operation of the Community intervention system for milk products. It did not, he said, provide producers with the necessary incentives to find profitable market outlets. He said that the milk product surplus was the most persistent and important problem facing the Common Agricultural Policy. Action was needed to curb inefficient production.

Turning to beef, he said that a situation in which some 800,000 tonnes of beef had been sold into intervention in the past two years was clearly unsatisfactory. It was good for neither consumers, the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (FEOGA), nor producers, whose returns had frequently been greatly below the target price.

The variable premium arrangements had been much more successful in safeguarding producers' returns while providing considerable benefits for consumers. It was of major importance that the system should be maintained and if possible improved.

Earlier on the opening day of the Council, Mr. Peart had sounded a note of warning against trying to solve internal agricultural problems of the EEC by discouraging food imports and encouraging exports. He explained that he was not questioning the need for reasonable protection against imports or the role of Community exports. But, he said, 'trade is a vital interest for the Community and it is a two-way affair. We cannot deal arbitrarily with the rest of the world.'

Mr. Peart also argued that a basic aim of the stocktaking discussion should be to improve the contribution of the CAP to the Community. The CAP should not restrict itself too much to price mechanisms and ignore other instruments such as direct aid. 'I believe,' he said, 'that our main task must be to restore and maintain the balance of the market. We must adopt price policies and market mechanisms which are designed to provide adequate incomes for efficient producers and thus to provide security of supply without encouraging wasteful surpluses.'

Peter Shore in EEC talks on world trade revival

Prospects for reviving world trade figured prominently in talks Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, had last week with trade ministers in five Community capitals – Paris, The Hague, Brussels, Rome and Bonn.

Speaking at a press conference in Brussels, midway through the tour, Mr. Shore said the ministers he had then seen (French, Dutch and Belgian) all felt there would be a revival next year, but whether it would be sufficient to arrest or reverse unemployment trends remained very much unanswered.

Later, in response to a question, he said he believed that Germany had a crucial role to play, and was well placed to take a leading part, to end the recession.

The ministers also shared worries about protectionism, which if allowed to grow could make the situation worse. Mr. Shore had emphasised that protectionism was the product of the recession being experienced. He said, 'Those who wish to avoid it must be ardent exponents of expansion and growth.' He went on: 'It has been my consistent view that trade expansion is the much better way to solve our problems. It was also right to make the point here that I have made frequently in the United Kingdom – we cannot allow the effects of recession to do permanent damage to particular industries and firms in our own country and we would have to see that it did not happen.'

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, pictured with Michel Toussaint, Belgian Minister for Foreign Trade, during their meeting in Brussels on 29 October.

Community banking Directive: UK legislation

In reply to a Parliamentary Question from Michael Ward, Labour Member for Peterborough, Paymaster-General, Edmund Dell, explained the Government's intention concerning the proposed EEC Directive on banking law.

Mr. Ward asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposed to introduce legislation to enable the Government to meet the requirement of the proposed Directive on banking law for prior authorisation of deposit taking institutions.

Replying for the Chancellor, Mr. Dell, said, 'In the light of this proposed directive, and experience in the domestic financial sector in recent years, the Government have decided in principle to introduce legislation which will enable them to meet this requirement. The form and timing of the legislation are still under consideration and will be announced as soon as possible.'

The draft EEC Directive on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing the commencement and carrying on of the business of credit institutions is at present before the EEC Council of Ministers. It is also now before the Scrutiny Committees of both Houses of Parliament.

The draft Directive requires all member states to adopt certain common principles in their arrangements for the supervision of banks and other deposit-taking institutions. Among other things, all such institutions would be required to obtain prior authorisation before commencing business.

Adoption of the draft Directive would require the introduction of a prior authorisation or licensing system in the UK. In the light of this, and of recent experience in the domestic banking and financial sector, the Government have decided to introduce legislation which will involve changes in the existing supervisory arrangements and enable them to meet the authorisation requirement of the Directive.

EEC/Iran: exploratory talks continue

Exploratory talks between the EEC Commission and Iran reached their final stages last week.

A report on the discussions, with formal proposals for the opening of negotiations and on the type of agreement to be concluded – whether for broad co-operation between the Community and Iran, or for preferential access for Iranian goods – will be eventually submitted to the Council.

The Community delegation in these early talks has been led by Manfred Caspari of the Commission's External Relations Directorate-General.

The 1975 working meeting of Leaseurope in London on 27 and 28 October was chaired by Sir Jasper Hollom (second from left), Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. On his right is Eugene Rancon from France, a Vice-President of Leaseurope, and, on his left, Fritz Peter, President of Leaseurope. The conference, which was attended by 180 delegates from leasing companies in 15 European countries, including Austria, Finland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland as well as the nine EEC Member States, discussed how the equipment leasing practices of the 15 countries should be harmonised.

EEC offers contracts for energy research and development

The European Commission has invited applications for contracts in two areas of energy research and development work: energy conservation and the production and use of hydrogen.

These are the first contracts to be offered under the Community's new energy research and development programme.

Ministers of the nine Member States agreed on 22 August* to a four-year energy research programme in two stages, costing 59 million units of account (about £24½ million). The first stage, which will have a budget of 12 mua (about £5 million) will end on 31 December 1976, and the second stage will run from 1 January 1977 to 30 June 1979. The programme will be subject to review by the Council of Ministers at the end of the first stage.

Proposals have been invited from individuals or organisations within the Community in the following areas:

Energy conservation

- Improvement of insulation in buildings
- Use of heat pumps
- Urban transport
- Recovery of residual heat
- Recycling of materials
- Production of energy from waste
- Assessment of the specific energy consumption of various equipment, processes and techniques
- Development of methods of accumulating secondary energy.

Hydrogen

Thermochemical production of hydrogen (research into chemical and electrochemical reaction cycles of high potential efficiency in the conversion of heat energy into hydrogen energy; and practical experiments on promising cycles).

Electrolytic production of hydrogen (improvement of existing electrolytic production technology; and the study of the viability and economics of high-temperature and high-pressure electrolysis).

Use of hydrogen (analysis of the potential applicability of hydrogen and of synthetic hydrogen-based fuels; development of safety specifications for the handling of hydrogen; and improvement of the small-scale storage of hydrogen).

Expenditure of 11.38 mua (about £4.74 million) is proposed for energy conservation research and development, with 2.2 mua (about £925,000) available for the first stage of work. Total expenditure for work on hydrogen is 13.24 mua (about £5.52 million), with 2.1 mua (about £880,000) for the first stage.

Details of the Commission's invitation are given in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (No. C243, 23 October), available from HMSO bookshops. Advice is available from Dr. Gillard Preston, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1, Tel. 01-211 5461.

The Commission has not yet invited applications for the remainder of the research and development programme which covers solar energy, geothermal energy and systems analysis.

* Details of the Council decision on the Community research and development programme are contained in the *Official Journal* No. L231, 2 September 1975.

The first conference held in Britain by Interlaine, the organisation representing the wool textile industries of the EEC, took place in York on 22-24 October. At the conference dinner in the historic Merchant Adventurers' Hall the chief speaker was Sir Christopher Soames (left), a vice-president of the EEC Commission, who is seen in this picture with (left to right) the Lord Mayor of York, Councillor J. P. Birch, Sir William Bulmer, Chairman of Interlaine; and Mr. R. V. Stroud.

New EC Legislation

Common Agricultural Policy

The texts of the following Regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 2696/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 785/67 on the buying-in of olive oil by intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L273, 24 October 1975).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 2698/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1860/75 on the granting of private storage aid for beef (*Official Journal* L273, 24 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2710/75 amending Regulations (EEC) 2036/74, (EEC) 2073/74 and (EEC) 2320/74 on the sale of beef held by intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L274, 25 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2711/75 on the granting at a standard rate fixed in advance of private storage aid for beef (*Official Journal* L274, 25 October 1975).

Customs Regulations

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L273, 24 October 1975 contains the following correction to Directive 75/349/EEC (published in (*Official Journal* L156, 18 June 1975):

Page 26, Article 7 (b), line 2:

for: 'exported'

read: 'expected'

Customs duties

The *Official Journal* C246, 27 October 1975, contains a table of customs duties applicable on goods originating in Israel and imported into the Community as originally constituted. The table, which sets out the position at 1 July 1975, when the EEC/Israel Agreement came into force, also contains details of the duties which will be applicable with effect from 1 January 1976 and 1 July 1977 and of the suspensions of duty applied on 1 January 1974, in respect of certain items.

Copies of *Official Journal* C246 may be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office price £0.85 plus postage.

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

EEC finance for industry: ECSC loans

Those wishing further information about European Coal and Steel Community loans available under Article 54 of the Treaty of Paris (10 October issue of *Trade and Industry*, page 107) should note that the telephone number at the Department of Industry, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU is **01-211 3841** and *not* 01-211 4442.

Community regulations on drivers' hours and records

The Department of the Environment has announced that the Government has included, in a Designation Order under the European Communities Act 1972 which was laid before Parliament on 29 October, a power for the Secretary of State for the Environment to make regulations implementing EEC Regulations on drivers' hours and records.

This power will be necessary when the difficulties of the UK in giving effect to the current EEC Regulation have been resolved.

Discussions between the Government and the Commission are continuing about possible ways of deferring beyond 1 January 1976 the Regulation's application to internal UK traffic.

EEC–Greece Association Agreement

Revised edition of Customs Notice No. 811

Customs Notice No. 811 has been revised to incorporate Notice No. 811B and published as Notice No. 811 (October 1975). The superseded editions, Notice No. 811 (December 1972) and Notice No. 811B (May 1975) should be withdrawn from use on 1 November 1975.

New prints of Movement Certificates AG1 and AG3

Movement certificates AG1 (C 1230) and AG3 (C 1231) have been reprinted to the new 'Geneva' layout. The January 1973 prints however remain valid and existing stocks should continue to be used.

Supplies of movement certificates AG1 and AG3 and the October 1975 edition of Notice No. 811 may be obtained from offices of Collectors of Customs and Excise, or from HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Customs revenue duties: restructuring on 1 January 1976

In accordance with provisions of the Treaty of Accession to the European Communities, the present duties on imported spirits, beer, wine, hydrocarbon oil, matches and mechanical lighters (but not tobacco) will be split into separate protective and revenue-raising charges. These changes come into effect on 1 January 1976.

The protective charges, corresponding to the protective elements of the present revenue duties will become customs duties. The rates will be subject to the transitional changes laid down in the Treaty, so that finally customs duties against other members of the EEC will be eliminated, and the full rates of the United Kingdom Tariff will be aligned with the Common Customs Tariff (CCT). Thus, on 1 January 1976 the rates of the customs duties will reflect, for EEC goods, a further cut of one fifth in the protective margins and, in general for third goods, a further reduction by one fifth in the difference between the full CCT rates and the UK base (1972) rates.

To maintain United Kingdom revenue, the goods will also be chargeable at importation with excise duties at the same rates as similar home produced goods.

In all cases customs duty and excise duty will be charged separately and neither will be reduced or over-ridden by the other.

Customs and Excise publications

Customs and Excise Notice No. 473, issued in May 1975, gave advance notice and general explanation of the charges, now enacted in the Finance (No. 2) Act 1975. Full details of the procedures and requirements to be followed from 1 January 1976 will be provided by the further publications and revised forms listed below.

A separate announcement will be made shortly about supplies of HM Customs and Excise Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification which is expected to be published early in December 1975.

The new and revised Customs and Excise Notices and amending supplements are expected to be available not later than November or, in a few cases, early December 1975. Copies will then be supplied without request to all known users of the existing notices. Copies may also be obtained free of charge from local Customs and Excise offices or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, Room 357, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London BC3 7HE, the 1976 edition or amendment being requested. Any person in doubt as to whether his business will be affected should consult his trade association or the local Customs and Excise office.

Notices and forms

The revised prints of the forms, for use as from 1 January 1976, are identified by having the year '1976' printed adjacent to the form number. Supplies will be distributed as far in advance as possible of the time they are required to be used. Requests for the forms should make it clear whether the current or revised (1976) print is required. As at present, many of the forms are in multi-page sets, with continuation sets for additional items and pads for extra copies.

The following are the principal Notices and Forms affected:

Importation

*Notice No. 463	General information for importers.
*Notice No. 465	Customs Entry Forms C 10 etc.
*Notice No. 101 (amendment)	Duty deferment. (relates only to customs duty)
Form C 10	Entry of goods for home use.
Form C 275	Entry of goods for process inwards.
Form C 277	Entry of goods for temporary importation.
Form GW 10	Entry of goods for warehousing.

Relief from customs duty

Notice No 770 (Amendment No. 1) Imported goods: Tariff liability dependent on end-use.

Notice No 771 (Amendment No. 2) Imported goods: Tariff Quotas.

Note: Notice No 221 (Section 7 relief), already issued, gives details of changes which operate from 1 January 1976.

Bonded Warehousing

Notice No. 186	General information and approval of warehouses.
Notice No. 187	Crown locked warehouses.
Notice No. 189	Open warehouses Class A.
Notice No. 190 (amendment)	Open warehouses Class B.
Notice No. 192	Valuation of goods for ad valorem duty.
Form GW 50	Warrant for certain additional payments of customs duty or exise duty.

Hydrocarbon oil

Notice No. 171 (Supersedes Notice No. 774)	Hydrocarbon oil: Customs and Excise duties; changes on 1 January 1976)
*Notice No. 179 (amendment)	Hydrocarbon oil bonded warehouses, refineries and producers' premises.
Form HO 9	Warrant for payment of customs duty on oil.
Form GW 60	Warrant for payment of excise duty on oil, otherwise than by gross payments.

Wineries

Notice No. 162 (Supersedes Notice No. 155)	Wine and made-wine: Production in the United Kingdom.

Forms: Most forms required to be used by producers of wine and made-wine have been revised.

Mechanical lighter makers

*Notice No. 36	Mechanical lighters: Excise requirements for manufacturers.

Economic Regulator

*Notice No. 320	Special surcharge or special rebate (relates only to excise duty).

Reliefs from excise duties

Beer:	Notice No. 6 – lost or spoilt beer.
	Notice No. 7 – drawback on mixed or blended beer.
Spirits:	Notice No. 41 – medical preparations and scientific purposes.
	Notice No. 64 – imported goods.
Hydrocarbon oil:	Notice No. 172 – drawback.
	Notice No. 183 – horticulture.
	Notice No. 184A – industrial processes.
	Notice No. 248 – fishing boats.
	Notice No. 263 – fuel in home waters.

* These are unlikely to be available before 1 December 1975

EXPORT

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Go-ahead for European information network for science and technology

An article* on the launch of the first stages of this project by C. G. Giles, Chairman of the Communities' Committee for Information and Documentation in Science and Technology (CIDST).

For firms or organisations concerned with the creation of a database or with its promotion, with 'hardware' or 'software' for the search and retrieval of information, with research and development in these areas, or simply with searching and retrieving information, things are about to happen in Europe of which they should be aware.

The essential point is that the Governments of the nine countries of the European Community have decided to create a European network for scientific, technical, social, economic and legal information, and in order to get this work under way they have committed themselves to spending approximately 1.8 million units of accounts this year, perhaps 2 million units of account next year and a sum of similar magnitude in the following year. A unit of account is very approximately one dollar.

The next significant point is that the bulk of this money is to be spent in the form of contracts with agencies and organisations in member countries. An organisation which makes a business of undertaking contract work in some of these areas will therefore need to be considering fairly carefully what part, if any, it could, or should be playing in the activities which are now getting under way.

Now of course it is very easy to make sweeping statements of this kind, but naturally it is necessary to know many more details about what is happening, and here, I confess, we come up against something of a difficulty. In reality, I suppose, on the European scene we are rather in the position of people who have just acquired a building site and put up a notice saying that an important new structure is to be erected. What is interesting is where the doors are and what the rooms will contain. Unfortunately much of this kind of detailed planning is still ahead of us. We have still to get the architects in and later on the builders before we can really say what the final thing will look like. So I would like to stress that these are still very early stages in the development; the funds which I mentioned were finally committed for this year on 18 March, and there is still a great deal of talking and planning to be done before we can go very far forward. Nevertheless I think it is important that we should alert you at this early stage, before, as it were, the concrete starts to be poured and things begin to reach their final shape.

The History

Let me then take a step backwards, and say a few words about the history of the developments we are talking about. The Council of Ministers is the body which makes the decisions within the European Communities and it is the Commission of the Community which acts like the Communities' civil service. It makes propositions upon which the Council decides. The Commission is also the body charged with the executive responsibility for seeing that the Council's wishes are carried out.

Thus it was on 27 June 1971, that is to say, before the United Kingdom joined the European Community, that the Council of Ministers decided on the creation of the Committee on Information and Documentation for Science and Technology (CIDST), and this is the Committee of which I am currently the Chairman. In setting up the CIDST the Council took the view that it was important for economic, scientific and technical progress that scientific, technical, economic and social documentation and data be made available by the most up-to-date methods to all called upon to use it. They also thought that this should be done as rapidly and economically as possible.

Accordingly, in order to further progress and gradually to establish a European documentation and information network, it was agreed that Member States should co-ordinate action with regard to the encouragement of efforts wherever they may originate towards the creation and rational development of systems of scientific and technical information and documentation in order to build up a European network through the permanent association of such systems.

It was also agreed they should co-ordinate action on:

1 The establishment of rules and methods of operation designed to ensure that the network is coherent
2 The promotion of specialist training and user education
3 The furthering of technological progress in document retrieval and documentation science

Commission responsibility

The Council decided that the preparation of projects or other actions resulting from their proposals should be the responsibility of the Commission and the Committee on Scientific and Technical Research Policy and to assist them in performing these tasks it was agreed that a Committee on Scientific and Technical Information – the CIDST – should be set up. It was laid down that this committee was to be composed of the persons responsible for the working out of scientific and technical information and documentation policy for each Member State, and of representatives of the Commission.

The points I would like to stress are, first, that the CIDST is therefore a committee of Government representatives, and, secondly, that its job is to work with the Commission in the building up of a European network for scientific and technological information through the permanent association of existing or new information systems. There is already, of course, a great deal of activity in this area, particularly in countries which are not Community members. This is clearly recognised in the framing of the Resolution and there was clearly no intention that the network should be entirely inward-looking or ignore in any way what was going on elsewhere either in the development of machine readable databases or in the establishment of retrieval networks.

It is also clear that considerable importance was attached to the need for the promotion of specialist training and for the training of those who would in due course be users of the network. Finally, there is the stress on the importance of

* The article is based on a paper given by Mr. Giles at an ASLIB evening meeting on 9 April 1975 and published in ASLIB Proceedings 27(9), September 1975.

furthering technological progress in document retrieval and documentation science, particularly, I would assume, from the point of view of stimulating a more consistent and co-ordinated attack on this problem from the European point of view.

How does CIDST operate?

That then gives some idea of the way the CIDST came into existence and its terms of reference; the next question is, how does it operate? Part of the answer and a broad outline of its past activities will be found in the Annual Report of the CIDST*.

Broadly, however, there are two kinds of problem. First, what kind of information should the network carry, and, secondly, how should it be organised technically, financially, legally, and so on? Dealing with these questions the pattern that has been followed is for the CIDST, after considering the requirements itself, to set up a series of specialist working groups mandated to examine specific areas, work out a programme of action, and then report back to CIDST.

On subject areas, I think it was a natural choice to seek to give priority to information related to the specific interests of the Communities themselves. Thus, on the Euratom front, an information system was developed well before the formation of the CIDST. This has led to nuclear information being treated rather differently from anything else, as is made clear in the Annual Report.

To meet the interests of the Iron and Steel communities it was decided at the same time as the CIDST was set up that there needed to be a metallurgical information system. This, which is known as the SDIM system, also operates in a rather special way from the point of view of CIDST.

Sectoral groups

Since then, however, a further series of new sectoral groups, as they are called, has been set up, each with specialists who are Government nominees and each, as far as this country is concerned, the particular interest of the Government Department concerned with the given area of information. In addition, the British Library is maintaining an interest in them all. Thus there is a sectoral group on agriculture with which the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has a particular interest, one on patents which involves the Patent Office, the Science Reference Library of the British Library and the Department of Industry, bio-medicine which concerns the Department of Health and Social Security, environmental information in which the Department of the Environment plays an active part, and energy information which involves, inter alia, the Department of Energy. So much then for the sectoral groups currently concerned with the information content of the network at this stage. Each sectoral group has its own unique features.

Horizontal Groups

There remains a number of topics which concern the whole idea of the network and to deal with these a number of so-called horizontal groups have been set up; among these I should mention the Training Group, whose role is a fairly obvious one, and the Economical and Financial Aspects Group, which has to decide on such aspects as pricing policy, and to consider eventually how it may be possible in an information system, which in principle is to provide access from the northernmost tip of Scotland to the southernmost tip of Italy, to make this available under comparable conditions as far as costs to users are concerned.

In due course, too, this whole process is certain to involve all sorts of legal and organisational matters and so we also have a small ad hoc group of people with a legal training and background to give us guidance on this.

Technical Aspects Group

But, of course, everything would fall to the ground without some kind of network to provide access to the various databases wherever they may be mounted and to carry and sort out the messages. The task of working out these problems, as far as a physical network is concerned, falls to the Technical Aspects Group, which has been particularly active over the last year or so. One result of their labours is that a contract for a feasibility study for the European Network Configuration has just been let.

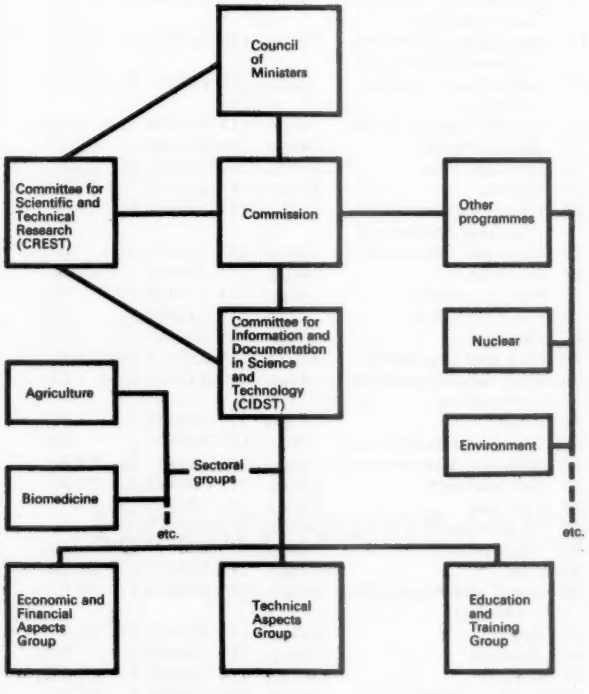
There is not sufficient space here to go into any great detail about these aspects of the work, but I think it is generally accepted that in this area we shall need to proceed step by step, making use at first of what already exists or is about to exist, and gradually developing it into something more like the ideal solution, whatever this may be.

Now that a clear decision to launch the activities has been taken – on 18 March – quite sizeable funds have been committed to the project, and will be spent over the next three years.

As I see it, it is up to all concerned in this field collectively to see that Europe derives full benefit from these developments.

* Report on the activities of the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) of the European Communities for 1972 and 1973. EUR 5177 dk, d, e, f, i, n. Luxembourg, 1974.

How CIDST operates



Free service for businessmen

The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.

New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.

The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 01-215 4301 (six lines).

EEC – your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The Unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Departments of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other Government Departments.

Contact the Unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Q. Where can I find an English translation of EEC secondary legislation already in force when Britain joined the Community? I am interested in commercial and competition policy.

A. The authentic English text, arranged in chronological order, was first published in special editions of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. For ease of reference a subject edition compiled by the Department of Industry was subsequently published by HMSO in 42 volumes. These include Commercial Policy (Vol. 2) and Competition (Vol. 4). The final volume contains a subject index and numerical list. As well as an English translation of each individual instrument in force on 31 December 1972 there are notes about relevant amending instruments up to that date, and the text of any adaptations agreed during the negotiations for British entry into the Community.

Full details of these volumes are listed (right). Orders quoting the Standard Book Number – shown in brackets in the list – should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies are available for reference at the Department of Industry's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, EC4, and at the European Communities' Information Services, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8, and main public reference libraries in major commercial centres.

If you are interested in EEC legislation coming into force since Britain joined the Community see the answer to the next question.

Q. How can I keep up with new EEC legislation?

A. This appears in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* which is published in two series. Instruments adopted by the Council or the Commission appear in the 'L' (Legislation) Series which comes out at least once daily. Most instruments are first published in draft form in the 'C' (Information and Notices) Series which comes out three times a week and also contains summaries of the proceedings of the European Assembly and the Court of Justice. The *Official Journal* can be obtained from HMSO – annual subscription, £21. Single copies can also be purchased.

To help identification of particular instruments the Department of Industry Library Services compile subject-arranged lists of titles of instruments published in the *Official Journal*. Those published during 1973 and 1974 are covered by two volumes – 'Secondary Legislation of the European Communities: Subject List and Table of Effects' (HMSO – price £1.50 and £2.50 net respectively). The lists are arranged under the same subject headings as the 42 volumes of Secondary Legislation up to 31 December 1972 (see answer above). The Table of Effects lists the numbers of instruments previously published by the Community which were either amended or repealed during the year. These volumes have been followed by lists covering each calendar month from January 1975 onwards. These are arranged in the same way and cumulate into a single volume at the end of the year. The annual subscription for the monthly parts is £6.78, including postage.

Copies are available for reference at the addresses given in the previous answer.

Q. How can I obtain details of origin marking requirements for products exported to other EEC countries?

A. Origin marking requirements are subject to national legislation in individual Member States. There are many variations in the regulations and, to date, the European Commission has not taken any steps to harmonise these laws. The requirements for industrial products are clearly defined but complications often arise when foods and agricultural produce are involved. Detailed information on specific products can be obtained from the Department of Trade's Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 423 (France) 7174 (Denmark), 467 (Federal German Republic), 466 (Italy and Irish Republic), and 288 (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg).

Secondary Legislation of the European Communities: Subject editions

Vol. 1	*Budgetary Policy*	68pp	(11 330441 2)	63p
Vol. 2	*Commercial Policy*	412pp	(11 330442 0)	£3.20
Vol. 3	*Community Institutions*	286pp	(11 330443 9)	£2.40
Vol. 4	*Competition*	150pp	(11 330444 7)	£1.37½
Vol. 5	*Customs Questions*	410pp	(11 330445 5)	£3.79
Vol. 6	*Economic and Financial Affairs*	96pp	(11 330446 3)	76p
Vol. 7	*Energy Policy*	62pp	(11 330447 1)	58p
Vol. 8	*Euratom*	138pp	(11 330448 X)	£1.15
Vol. 9	*Right of Establishment*	172pp	(11 330449 8)	£1.60
Vol. 10	*Social Affairs*	335pp	(11 330450 1)	£2.75
Vol. 11	*Taxation*	40pp	(11 330451 X)	34p
Vol. 12	*Technical Standards*	308pp	(11 330452 8)	£2.85
Vol. 13	*Transport*	268pp	(11 330453 6)	£2.46
Vol. 14	*Agricultural Finance*	146pp	(11 330454 4)	£1.33
Vol. 15	*Agricultural Structure and Statistics*	158pp	(11 330455 2)	£1.55
Vol 16	*Agriculture – Licences, Levies, Refunds, etc*	264pp	(11 330456 0)	£2.45
Vol. 17	*Agriculture – General Matters*	52pp	(11 330457 9)	50p
Vol. 18	*Animal Feeding Stuffs*	66pp	(11 330458 7)	59½p
Vol. 19	*Animal Health*	148pp	(11 330459 5)	£1.37
Vol. 20	*Beef and Veal*	148pp	(11 330460 9)	£1.36
Vol. 21	*Cereals.*	329pp	(11 330461 7)	£3.20
Vol. 22	*Certain Processed Agricultural Products*	108pp	(11 330462 5)	£1.00
Vol. 23	*Eggs and Albumens*	104pp	(11 330463 3)	97p
Vol. 24	*Fisheries*	140pp	(11 330464 1)	£1.30
Vol. 25	*Flax and Hemp*	32pp	(11 330456 X)	30p
Vol. 26	*Food Standards*	72pp	(11 330466 8)	67p
Vol. 27	*Forestry*	34pp	(11 330467 6)	32p
Vol. 28	*Fruit and Vegetables*	336pp	(11 330468 4)	£2.80
Vol. 29	*Fruit and Vegetables, Processed*	63pp	(11 330469 2)	57p
Vol. 30	*Hops*	19pp	(11 330470 6)	22p
Vol. 31	*Live Plants and Flowers*	44pp	(11 330471 4)	42p
Vol. 32	*Milk and Milk Products*	336pp	(11 330472 2)	£3.00
Vol. 33	*Oils and Fats*	288pp	(11 330473 0)	£2.40
Vol. 34	*Pigmeat*	136pp	(11 330474 9)	£1.15
Vol. 35	*Plant Health*	9pp	(11 330475 7)	15p
Vol. 36	*Poultrymeat*	60pp	(11 330476 5)	54p
Vol. 37	*Rice*	176pp	(11 330477 3)	£1.50
Vol. 38	*Seeds and Propagating Material*	205pp	(11 330478 1)	£1.70
Vol. 39	*Sugar*	241pp	(11 330479 X)	£2.00
Vol. 40	*Tobacco*	54pp	(11 330480 3)	50p
Vol. 41	*Wine*	320pp	(11 330481 1)	£2.65
Vol. 42	*Subject Index and Numerical List*	82pp	(11 330482 X)	£1.20

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

At extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1 Industrial Production (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EEC[3]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.9	0.3	18.1	39.9	0.6	13.3	4.5	19.4	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.3	0.1	6.0	13.2	0.2	4.4	1.5	6.4	33.1	*43.3*	*11.9*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	99	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	106	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	112	106	109	104	111	102	106	*108*	*110*
1973	116	115	120	113	119	114	118	111	115	*118*	*127*
1974	121	119	123	112	123	120	121	108	116 (e)	*117*	*125*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	113	119	105	115	111	112	*116*	*122*
2nd quarter	114	112	120	113	120	114	116	111	114	*117*	*127*
3rd quarter	115	115	122	113	119	118	119	111	116	*119*	*129*
4th quarter	118	120	122	115	120	120	121	111	116	*119*	*132*
1974 1st quarter	122	124	125	114	127	123	122	105	116	*117*	*130*
2nd quarter	123	119	126	113	124	125	122	110	118	*118*	*127*
3rd quarter	122	120	126	112	121	119	124	110	116	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	117	114	118	109	119	111	120	107	111	*114*	*115*
1975 1st quarter	113	103	114	106	116 (e)	110	116	106	109	*105*	*106*
2nd quarter	108	92	111	103	112 (e)	106	113	101	105 (e)	*103*	*110*
3rd quarter			110 (e)	101 (e)				100 (e)		*105* (e)	*113* (e)
1974 April	126	118	124	113		126	119	109	118	*117*	*129*
May	121	118	126	113		123	122	109	118	*118*	*132*
June	125	121	125	114		125	124	110	121	*118*	*127*
July	124	121	129	112		123	123	111	117	*118*	*126*
August	119	118	129	111		112	125	109	115	*117*	*121*
September	122	121	122	112		123	124	107	116	*118*	*121*
October	121	120	122	111		117	122	106	114	*117*	*118*
November	118	115	117	110		111	123	106	113	*114*	*115*
December	111	107	114	106		106	116	104	108	*110*	*112*
1975 January	116	104	116	104		110	115	107	108	*107*	*107*
February	114	102	115	105		113	115	107	109	*104*	*105*
March	109	102	112	107		107	118	105	109	*103*	*105*
April	111	92	112	101		109	112	103	104	*103*	*109*
May	103	86	109	105		102	114	101	106	*103*	*110*
June	109	96	112	103		108	113	101	105 (e)	*104*	*111*
July	101 (e)	90	110 (e)	98		109 (e)	112	101	102 (e)	*105*	*114*
August			110 (e)	104				99 (e)		*106*	*112* (e)
September										107	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	−6.3	−8.1	−0.3	−2.6	−3.5	−3.0	−1.7	−2.6	−1.3	*+2.6*	*+4.0*
On a year earlier	−15.4	−24.4	−13.3	−9.5	−9.7	−14.0	−8.1	−8.8	−12.1	*−9.9*	*−9.9*

[1] Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture. [2] Mining and manufacturing only. [3] Excluding Denmark. (e) Estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WC1V 6HB

TABLE 2 Unemployment seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,2]	Denmark[1,3]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Netherlands[2,5]	United Kingdom[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968	147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969	120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	125	145	166	114	113	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973	130	84	150	184	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1974	148	186	190	391	114	91	293	101	*124*	*117*
1974 1st quarter	131	81	168	287	102	89	263	96	*115*	*107*
2nd quarter	137	135	169	375	110	86	270	97	*114*	*111*
3rd quarter	151	208	181	468	117	90	302	106	*123*	*118*
4th quarter	172	323	235	553	133	98	337	107	*148*	*143*
1975 1st quarter	199	420	279	558	164	90	378	123	*187*	*152*
2nd quarter	239	423	319	811	179 (e)	118	413	177	*201*	*180*
3rd quarter	263 (e)	373 (e)	335 (e)	899 (e)			465 (e)	170 (e)	*191* (e)	
1974 April	134	95	167	358	105	87	265	96	*111*	*110*
May	135	148	168	369	105		267	96	*115*	*111*
June	141	163	172	399	112		272	99	*116*	*112*
July	145	171	176	428	110	90	291	102	*119*	*114*
August	148	205	177	466	114		304	107	*120*	*118*
September	158	247	190	510	121		311	108	*130*	*121*
October	166	303	213	546	126	98	324	107	*136*	*130*
November	172	327	240	566	133		343	107	*147*	*142*
December	179	338	252	548	140		354		*162*	*156*
1975 January	186	426	267	505	157	90	367	119	*184*	*149*
February	197	403	278	556	167		378	124	*183*	*151*
March	213	434	292	613	169		389	127	*195*	*156*
April	227	451	304	744	174	118	407	134	*200*	*161*
May	239	418	319	812	179		411	144	*209*	*165*
June	254	399	335	877	183		420	152	*193*	*167*
July	258	355	338	894	186		439	165	*192*	*195*
August	269	433	330	901			450	170	*191*	
September	262 (e)		337	903			507	176	190	
Rate %	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.9	6.9	3.7	4.9	3.9	8.9	*1.8*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	+9.6	−8.9	+4.9	+10.9	+7.5	+31.1	+12.8	+18.8	−4.8	*+12.6*
On a year earlier	+74.9	+120.2	−85.1	+97.2	+67.6	+37.2	+54.1	+61.2	+55.3	*+56.4*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] Registered unemployed.
[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others). (e) Estimated. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 3 Exports (fob) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	82,956	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969	10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18,535	16,392	24,340	153,152	*49,676*	*28,591*
1973	22,317	6,129	35,948	67,701	2,127	22,188	23,946	28,851	210,645	*71,622*	*36,834*
1974	28,137	7,725	45,835	89,085	2,634	30,147	32,496 (e)	37,203	275,076	*98,763*	*55,278*
1974 1st quarter	6,273	1,794	10,464	20,592	591	6,564	7,224	8,126	61,830	*22,455*	*11,298*
2nd quarter	7,393	1,896	11,205	22,803	636	7,176	8,355	9,540	69,459	*24,355*	*13,941*
3rd quarter	7,314	1,953	11,883	22,389	666	8,157	8,400	9,967	71,286	*25,254*	*14,545*
4th quarter	7,158	2,082	12,468	23,274	741	8,250	8,514	9,566	72,501	*26,700*	*15,504*
1975 1st quarter	7,842	2,163	13,437	23,118	765	8,514	8,835	11,036	76,251	*27,015*	*14,715*
2nd quarter	7,191	2,259	13,461	23,709	801	8,520	8,930	10,358	74,888 (e)	*25,737*	*13,878*
3rd quarter								9,835		*26,912* (e)	
1974 April	2,408	637	3,672	7,577	220	2,469	2,707	3,191	22,917	*8,071*	*4,254*
May	2,498	628	3,707	7,997	202	1,190	2,790	3,329	23,401	*7,787*	*4,833*
June	2,487	631	3,826	7,231	217	2,517	2,861	3,304	23,140	*8,495*	*4,853*
July	2,452	637	3,877	7,613	237	2,919	2,982	3,422	24,167	*8,401*	*4,875*
August	2,523	648	3,966	7,578	221	2,606	2,556	3,401	23,540	*6,447*	*5,004*
September	2,339	669	4,039	7,197	208	2,643	2,861	3,526	23,577	*8,460*	*4,664*
October	2,337	674	3,876	7,401	223	2,680	2,793	3,376	23,365	*8,698*	*5,353*
November	2,514	731	4,054	8,076	249	2,671	2,733	3,016	24,252	*9,159*	*5,246*
December	2,307	677	4,537	7,796	269	2,898	2,985	3,228	24,883	*8,841*	*4,898*
1975 January	2,640	732	4,427	7,962	284	2,713	3,041	3,712	25,683	*9,419*	*5,163*
February	2,783	748	4,669	7,977	264	2,887	2,971	3,475	26,027	*8,846*	*4,911*
March	2,421	684	4,339	7,180	215	2,914	2,823	3,794	24,542	*8,749*	*4,641*
April	2,445	809	4,550	8,222	278	2,763	3,171	3,287	25,711	*8,610*	*4,789*
May	2,279	688	4,276	7,325	253	2,627	2,782	3,733	24,214	*8,259*	*4,581*
June	2,466	762	4,636	8,161	270	3,128		3,334	25,557 (e)	*8,668*	*4,509*
July			4,186	7,347	277			3,431		*8,945*	*4,384*
August								3,143		*8,996* (e)	*4,388* (e)
September								3,260			
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	−8.3	+4.4	−3.4	−2.4	+5.7	+0.1	+0.9	−5.0	−1.1	*+3.9*	*−5.3*
On a year earlier	−2.9	+19.2	+14 8	+0.1	+22.0	+18.7	+8.8	−5.0	+8.7	*+5.0*	*−9.9*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+1.6	+14.7	+5.7	+7.9	+14.9	+8.5	+13.1	+3.3	−6.7	*+3.9*	*−2.9*
On a earlier year	−2.3	+16.4	+6.6	−0.2	+36.5	+22.3	+9.2	+6.3	−5.8	*+5.0*	*−8 6*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Series "A"'

TABLE 4 Imports (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2, 3]*	*Japan[2]*
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*35,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,986	26,696	39,759	2,113	19,252	17,127	27,831	152,643	*55,819*	*23,463*
1973	21,762	7,425	37,587	54,465	2,775	27,858	24,419	38,724	215,013	*69,126*	*38,331*
1974	28,890	9,393	52,980	69,006	3,801	41,076	33,288 (e)	54,627	292,989 (e)	*77,420*	*62,034*
1973 1st quarter	4,668	1,569	7,941	11,949	615	5,373	5,379	8,127	45,624	*16,017*	*7,428*
2nd quarter	5,202	1,776	9,000	13,002	681	6,777	5,724	9,438	51,597	*16,581*	*9,063*
3rd quarter	5,868	1,992	10,215	14,436	741	7,713	6,678	10,224	57,867	*17,619*	*10,170*
4th quarter	6,024	2,088	10,431	15,078	788	7,995	6,633	10,935	59,925	*18,909*	*11,670*
1974 1st quarter	6,456	2,361	11,952	15,378	831	9,336	7,200	12,822	65,616	*21,606*	*14,238*
2nd quarter	7,707	2,415	13,290	17,469	1,014	10,308	8,571	14,049	75,087	*24,858*	*16,155*
3rd quarter	7,548	2,331	14,088	17,856	1,041	11,223	8,859	13,933	77,154	*27,213*	*15,717*
4th quarter	7,179	2,286	13,650	18,234	915	10,209	8,658	13,943	75,132	*27,408*	*15,879*
1975 1st quarter	7,317	2,424	13,824	18,276	978	9,084	9,132	13,568	74,958	*25,008*	*14,856*
2nd quarter	7,578	2,505	13,338	19,173	933	9,270	9,057 (e)	12,638	73,977 (e)	*22,173*	*13,755*
1974 April	2,405	846	4,382	5,734	342	3,905	2,787	4,541	22,917	*7,950*	*5,239*
May	2,726	762	4,453	5,961	332	2,885	2,839	4,804	23,401	*8,302*	*5,527*
June	2,576	807	4,453	5,775	341	3,518	2,946	4,704	23,140	*8,608*	*5,388*
July	2,675	795	4,786	5,926	354	4,237	3,194	4,751	24,167	*8,792*	*5,543*
August	2,404	810	4,730	6,197	357	3,493	2,732	4,618	23,540	*9,469*	*5,180*
September	2,468	727	4,572	5,734	330	3,494	2,932	4,564	24,969	*8,951*	*4,994*
October	2,349	759	4,514	6,010	308	3,564	2,861	4,760	25,083	*8,732*	*5,220*
November	2,362	788	4,477	6,193	291	3,191	2,872	4,691	24,835	*9,311*	*5,357*
December	2,468	738	4,660	6,031	316	3,454	2,923	4,493	25,214	*9,365*	*5,289*
1975 January	2,440	850	4,742	6,032	339	2,998	3,122	4,886	25,411	*9,831*	*5,173*
February	2,476	850	4,669	6,503	347	2,917	3,094	4,678	25,533	*7,797*	*4,814*
March	2,401	722	4,412	5,741	290	3,167	2,920	4,361	24,015	*7,381*	*4,869*
April	2,597	919	4,549	7,039	326	3,059	3,044	4,322	25,855	*7,917*	*4,610*
May	2,440	790	4,228	5,797	307	2,667	2,994	4,240	23,463	*7,250*	*4,765*
June	2,542	796	4,563	6,336	299	3,543		4,195	25,274 (e)	*7,005*	*4,397*
July		809	4,426	5,922	313			4,345		*7,851*	*4,099*
August								4,425		*7,951* (e)	
September								4,113 (e)			
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	+3.6	+3.9	−3.0	−6.4	−4.6	+9.0	−2.0	+1.0	−0.5	*+1.2*	*−7.4*
On a year earlier	−1.7	+1.3	−3.5	+2.2	−10.5	−10.1	+8.9	−7.5	+7.4	*−15.1*	*−19.5*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+14.8	+5.7	+6.1	+3.4	+3.8	+18.1	+9.8	+9.8	+7.8	*+1.2*	*−4.0*
On a year earlier	−1.1	−1.0	−10.4	+2.0	+0.2	−7.3	+9.2	+3.5	−1.0	*−15.1*	*−18.4*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] fob. [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

TABLE 5 Balance of Payments on Current Account

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,059	2,964	−60	2,688	65	−1,283	3,432	*374*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,798	1,931	−197	2,406	31	1,068	2,723	*217*	*2,119*
1970	724	−544	+297	729	−194	902	−518	1,661	2,470	*−281*	*1,970*
1971	851	−423	530	323	208	2,041	−233	2,588	5,143	*−3,881*	*5,821*
1972	1,113	−66	284	1,041	−139	2,266	1,050	221	4,314	*−9,714*	*6,624*
1973	1,098	−472	−694	4,576	−216	−2,510	1,750	−3,569	865 (e)	*337*	*−133*
1974	813	−987	−5,849	9,358		−7,817	1,620	−8,948 (e)		*−3,610*	*−4,550*
1972 1st quarter	279	−39	−325	135		811	17	−73		*−2,192*	*959*
2nd quarter	215	54	445	78		903	251	476		*−2,772*	*1,212*
3rd quarter	235	−36	−3	−306		782	393	−355		*−3,656*	*2,085*
4th quarter	384	−46	167	1,135		−230	389	173		*−1,094*	*2,369*
1973 1st quarter	353	−151	−225	596		−669	396	−890		*−311*	*497*
2nd quarter	226	−179	280	1,776		−736	574	−471		*−941*	*−416*
3rd quarter	200	69	−542	852		−14	−41	−603		*−1,087*	*101*
4th quarter	318	−211	−206	1,951		−1,060	822	−1,165		*2,676*	*−315*
1974 1st quarter	349	−519	−1,602	2,750		−2,503	334	−2,479		*1,246*	*−3,274*
2nd quarter	−129	−311	−1,864	2,237		−2,433	388	−2,317		*−1,947*	*−2,377*
3rd quarter	292	−141	−1,897	872		−1,413	453	−2,022		*−4,122*	*−133*
4th quarter	369	−16	−486	−3,499		−1,467	445	−2,132		*1,213*	*1,133*
1975 1st quarter	597			2,373		−461	129	−1,407		*3,212*	*−799*
2nd quarter								−921			
3rd quarter								−1,324			

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics.

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Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

TABLE 6 Export Unit Values of Manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Netherlands		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1968	92	92	96	85	88	96	90	90	95	95	90	90	*91*	*90*	*90*
1969	85	85	97	90	92	98	93	93	97	97	93	93	*95*	*94*	*94*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	98	96	105	105	108	103	106	105	104	101	106	105	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	112	99	115	107	117	103	114	106	117	105	116	111	*104*	*116*	*99*
1973	137	107	143	115	147	108	126	117	139	108	127	124	*113*	*141*	*107*
1974	171	133	165	143	172	121	154	160	178	132	153	157	*137*	*181*	*147*
1972 1st quarter	110	97	114	104	117	103	112	105	117	105	119	110	*104*	*112*	*96*
2nd quarter	112	99	114	105	116	102	113	105	116	104	120	111	*105*	*115*	*98*
3rd quarter	112	98	115	106	118	104	114	106	117	105	105	118	*104*	*117*	*100*
4th quarter	114	101	117	108	117	103	114	106	117	105	113	115	*107*	*119*	*102*
1973 1st quarter	122	102	126	110	124	103	119	110	124	105	119	118	*107*	*125*	*100*
2nd quarter	134	105	141	112	141	105	121	115	135	107	129	121	*111*	*136*	*100*
3rd quarter	148	108	153	115	162	106	131	120	148	124	131	127	*114*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter	147	113	152	121	157	109	133	125	152	112	132	133	*120*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter	150	124	141	125	154	114	133	137	154	121	134	141	*127*	*165*	*134*
2nd quarter	173	132	158	139	175	120	148	151	179	131	153	153	*132*	*183*	*142*
3rd quarter	177	137	170	146	175	125	163	170	186	137	159	162	*142*	*185*	*150*
4th quarter	183	137	181	151	183	124	171	181	192	138	165	170	*148*	*190*	*160*
1975 1st quarter					203	130					178	179	*156*		
2nd quarter											182	188	*159*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+3.4	Nil	+6.5	+3.4	+10.9	+4.8	+4.9	+6.5	+3.2	+0.7	+2.3	+5.0	*+1.9*	*+2.7*	*+6.0*
On a year earlier	+24.5	+21.2	+19.1	+24.8	+31.8	+14.0	+28.6	+44.8	+26.3	+23.2	+19.0	+22.9	*+20.5*	*+23.4*	*+35.6*

(e) estimated.

Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A'.

TABLE 7 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	*90*	*88*
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	*94*	*93*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1973	118	117	123	120	119	132	122	125	127	*114*	*125*
1974	133	128	142	136	127	154	146	137	147	*127*	*153*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	118	121	122	*111*	*117*
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	118	130	121	125	125	*113*	*123*
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	119	133	124	126	128	*116*	*127*
4th quarter	121	119	129	124	122	137	127	129	132	*118*	*132*
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144	134	132	137	*122*	*144*
2nd quarter	130	127	140	135	127	151	141	136	145	*125*	*151*
3rd quarter	136	129	144	139	128	157	150	138	149	*129*	*156*
4th quarter	140	133	149	143	130	165	160	143	156	*133*	*163*
1975 1st quarter	144	136	152	147	132	178	165	146	166	*135*	*165*
2nd quarter	148	140	156	151	135	189	169	150	181	*137*	*171*
3rd quarter	151 (e)	143 (e)	158 (e)	154 (e)	135 (e)	189 (e)	173 (e)	152 (e)	188 (e)	*140* (e)	*172* (e)
1974 April	128	126	137	133	126		140	135	145	*124*	*151*
May	130	127	139	134	127	151	142	136	147	*125*	*150*
June	132	128	141	136	127		143	137	149	*126*	*151*
July	134	129	142	138	128		147	137	149	*127*	*154*
August	136	129	143	139	128	157	150	138	149	*129*	*156*
September	137	130	145	140	128		155	140	151	*130*	*158*
October	139	131	147	142	129		156	142	154	*132*	*162*
November	140	133	150	143	130	165	160	143	156	*133*	*163*
December	141	134	150	144	130		162	144	159	*134*	*164*
1975 January	143	135	151	146	131		164	145	163	*134*	*164*
February	144	137	152	147	132	178	166	145	166	*135*	*165*
March	145	138	153	148	133		166	147	169	*136*	*167*
April	147	139	154	150	134		168	149	175	*136*	*170*
May	148	140	156	151	134	189	169	150	182	*137*	*171*
June	149	141	157	152	135		171	150	185	*138*	*171*
July	150	142	158	153	135		172	151	187	*140*	*172*
August	151	143	158	154	135		173	153	189	*140*	*172* (e)
September									189 (e)	*141* (e)	
% change latest 3 months:											
On previous 3 months	+2.2	+2.3	+2.0	+2.3	+1.4	Nil	+2.5	+1.7	+4.2	*+2.1*	*+1.4*
On a year earlier	+12.0	+10.6	+10.6	+11.3	+6.2	+20.2	+17.1	+10.5	+25.8	*+8.7*	*+11.6*

[1] Excluding rent.

(e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

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TABLE 8 Value of retail sales Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[4 7]	Nether-lands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	108	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	121	126	125	122	123	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	130	148	152	136	139	*134*	*145*
1974	159	147	133	137	168	189	150	161	*143*	*165*
1973 1st quarter	133	128	112	131	140	123	132	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	135	130	116	130	147	141	134	133	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter	136	137	114	128	149	140	137	140	*136*	*147*
4th quarter	144	141	124	130	154	204	140	147	*137*	*156*
1974 1st quarter	151	144	127	134	158	160	144	150	*138*	*157*
2nd quarter	156	148	131	135	165	166	149	154	*142*	*160*
3rd quarter	161	148	136	140	169	181	155	165	*148*	*170*
4th quarter	166	152	139	138	175	236	153	174	*142*	*173*
1975 1st quarter	174	161	141	146	183	181	163	182	*148*	*186*
2nd quarter	174 (e)	164	145	148	193	196 (e)	165	190	*151*	*192*
3rd quarter			145 (e)					192 (e)	*159* (e)	
1974 January	150	144	130	141	154	153	138	147	*137*	*160*
February	150	146	128	132	161	153	142	150	*138*	*156*
March	152	141	127	134	158	175	140	151	*140*	*154*
April	154	148	129	138	169	183	143	152	*142*	*154*
May	156	151	133	140	163	179	145	152	*143*	*160*
June	157	146	130	129	163	173	144	157	*142*	*165*
July	162	149	135	137	156	184	151	160	*148*	*167*
August	157	148	133	139	172	162	155	165	*150*	*167*
September	164	147	140	143	171	196	154	168	*148*	*177*
October	168	151	146	143	175	225	155	171	*146*	*170*
November	158	153	136	139	177	196	153	175	*142*	*174*
December	171	151	136	133	173	288	152	174	*137*	*174*
1975 January	174	160	139	150	185	168	161	181	*147*	*182*
February	173	163	142	145	182	169	166	182	*150*	*186*
March	175	160	144	143	183	208	161	182	*147*	*191*
April	180	163	146	147	188	188	169	202	*149*	*191*
May	167	162	146	149	198	203	163	182	*154*	*192*
June		167	143	147	189		164	188	*156*	*193*
July		168	144	151				191	*160*	*193*
August			145					194 (e)	*158*	
September								195 (e)		
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	+0.8	+2.3	−0.9	+2.8	+4.6	−4.2	+1.6	+1.4	*+5.3*	*+1.8*
On a year earlier	+13.0	+11.4	+8.5	+10.4	+16.2	+11.6	+14.8	+17.7	*+7.5*	*+17.5*

[2] Department and chainstores. [3] Including indirect taxes. [4] Average weekly sales. [5] Excluding motor vehicles.
[6] Including chainstores. [7] Not seasonally adjusted.
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1, 2]	France	German F.R.[6] †	Ireland[2]	Italy[7]	Nether-lands[3]	Great Britain	*United States*[4]	*Japan*[5] †
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*85*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	111	116	112	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	126	129	120	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147	153	135	136	159	154	142	143	*121*	*163*
1974	178	187	158	152	191	189	168	166	*131*	*206*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	119	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	127	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	134	125	125	140	130	129	131	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	129	131	145	137	137	134	*118*	*148*
2nd quarter	144	151	133	134	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	160	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*163*
4th quarter	154	168	144	141	168	168	148	150	*124*	*174*
1974 1st quarter	162	173	147	144	172	176	158	147	*126*	*179*
2nd quarter	173	185	155	150	188	184	166	159	*129*	*201*
3rd quarter	184	190	164	156	196	194	174	172	*133*	*215*
4th quarter	192	202	169	159	207	202	175	185	*137*	*215*
1975 1st quarter	201	211	173	158	222	225	185	194	*139*	*229*
2nd quarter	207	223	177	161		238	188	202 (e)	*141*	*216*
3rd quarter			187 (e)	164 (e)					*143* (e)	
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	+3.0	+5.7	+5.7	+1.9	+7.3	+5.8	+1.6	+4.1	*+1.4*	*+5.7*
On a year earlier	+19.7	+20.5	+14.0	+5.1	+29.1	+29.4	+13.3	+27.0	*+7.5*	*+7.3*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Including mining. [2] Earnings. [3] Hourly rates industry: males. [4] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker. [5] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers.
[6] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings. [7] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.
Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reine 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and Great Britain ('Department of Employment Gazette' and M.E.I.).

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,365	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,668	−5,234	1,566
1972 3rd qtr.	104	110	103	79	115	8	−35	6	−16	−89	−280	191
4th qtr.	107	111	105	80	124	19	13	24	−10	−11	−213	202
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−125	−329	204
2nd qtr.	109	112	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−63	−388	325
3rd qtr.	110	114	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−217	−583	366
4th qtr	109	114	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−430	−995	565
1974 1st qtr.	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−846	−1,272	426
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−947	−1,336	389
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	368	3	−14	−823	−1,199	376
4th qtr.	111	116	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−1,052	−1,427	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	106	93	102	−172	−4	−31	−57	−430	−836	406
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	86	100	−340	−121	−52	−52	−397	−687	290
3rd qtr.										−607 p	−937 p	330 **
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−2.5	—	−0.8	−9.4	−13.2							
on a year earlier	+0.5	+2.2	+0.5	−7.4	−8.9							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales*	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.3	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.2	110.9	110.7	137.3	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.4	108.0	109.9	102.7	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.9ø	2.6ø	302.6ø	15,886	21,120
1974 1st qtr.	104.0	106.3	109.8	103	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,490	4,762
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.6	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	313.0	3,996	5,332
3rd qtr.	108.4	109.9	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.1	4,231	5,430
4th qtr.	105.3	106.1	111.6	96	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,169	5,596
1975 1st qtr.	104.4	105.7	111.5	106	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,532	5,368
2nd qtr.	100.1	100.2	108.7	91	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.7	159.8	4,461	5,148
3rd qtr.			105.3 p	103	139.4	26.6	239.0 p	193.4 p	185.1	1008.5	4.3	135.2	4,651 p	5,583 p
1974 Nov.	105.8	106.9	112.8	98	115.2	18.3	223.8	164.8	153.9	643.5	2.8	279.8	1,338	1,920
Dec.	103.8	104.9	110.8	87	116.9	19.1	222.5	167.6	158.0	..	..	..	1,450	1,834
1975 Jan.	105.1	107.2	113.0	109	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0e	3.0 e	..	1,509	1,918
Feb.	105.0	106.6	112.3	113	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,806
Mar.	103.2	103.3	109.4	97	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,544	1,645
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.2	89	129.1	21.7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.2	3.4	176.5	1,365	1,726
May	99.5	99.5	102.6	90	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,612	1,693
June	99.5	99.6	104.5	95	137.1	26.1	227.7	189.0	182.4	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,484	1,729
July	100.0	100.3	104.7	89	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.4	976.5	4.2	131.6	1,569	1,923
Aug.	99.1	99.4	104.9	92	139.3	26.9	241.1 p	193.5 p	185.2	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,492	1,866
Sept.			106 p	129	140.5	26.6	242.7 p	195.0 p	185.6	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,589 p	1,799 p
Oct.										1088.6 p	4.7	126.2		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−1.8	−1.7	−3.1	+13.2	+4.4		+5.9	+3.8	+5.0	+14.9		−7.9	+3½††	+9½††
on a year earlier	−8.5	−9.7	−5.1	−5.0	+26.6		+12.2	+23.9	+28.5	+65.6		−56.0	+10	+3

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection †† Average latest 3 months on average previous 4 months

Activity in the textile and clothing industry

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	● fifty-three week period

This article reviews activity in the textile and clothing industries for the first half of 1975. It is one of a series published at intervals in *Trade and Industry*.

Home demand (Table 1)

Consumer expenditure on clothing increased by 5 per cent in the first quarter of 1975 but any possible benefit to the home industry was minimised by the rise in imports. In the case of household textiles and furnishings the increase in consumer expenditure was more pronounced and at 13 per cent possibly reflected the incidence of the January sales combined with the relatively greater concern about the effects of rising inflation and taxation changes expected in the April Budget. The subsequent retrenchment in the second quarter, however, brought demand in both sectors back to the level of the fourth quarter 1974.

Retail sales by clothing and footwear shops began the year well with high January figures but subsequently declined. After reaching their lowest point in May they recovered in June and July but fell slightly again in August.

Output (Table 2)

Output of the textile industry in the first half of 1975 was 8 per cent below that in the corresponding period of the previous year, which included the period of three-day week working. Compared with the last half of 1974, a 4 per cent fall was recorded and this decline in

TABLE 1 Comparison of textile and clothing output with some factors affecting demand

Index numbers 1970 = 100 (quarterly figures seasonally adjusted)

								1973		1974				1975		Growth rate per cent per annum	Growth per cent 12 months ended
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	1968/74	Q2 1975/ Q2 1974
Gross domestic product at factor cost (expenditure based)	97.1	98.5	100.0	102.0	104.3	109.5	109.8	109.5	109.1	106.2	110.1	112.0	111.0	110.0	107.4	2.1	+1.3
Consumer's expenditure																	
All items	97.3	97.6	100.0	102.6	108.7	113.8	113.7	114.5	114.5	112.9	112.4	113.9	115.1	115.8	113.6	2.6	+0.9
Clothing	96.1	96.8	100.0	100.6	108.1	114.4	113.2	112.2	114.5	113.8	109.2	115.8	114.7	120.3	114.4	2.8	+3.5
Household textiles and soft furnishings	105.9	104.2	100.0	105.2	115.9	122.8	117.0	119.0	117.6	124.6	113.5	116.3	113.5	128.7	113.5	1.7	−0.6
Output of total manufacturing	95.8	99.4	100.0	99.6	102.0	110.9	108.0	111.7	111.0	106.3	109.6	109.9	106.1	105.7	100.2	2.0	−3.8
Output of textiles	97.1	100.2	100.0	100.7	103.0	108.6	100.4	106.3	106.4	99.2	105.6	101.8	95.2	94.6	94.4	0.6	−8.6
Deliveries of made-up clothing	96.8	97.4	100.0	104.2	108.7	116.6	114.8	116.9	118.1	105.7	115.3	117.8	120.3	123.6	112.8	2.9	+4.1

TABLE 2 Output

Index numbers 1970 = 100 (quarterly figures seasonally adjusted)

	1968 MLH	Weights	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1973 3rd qtr.	1973 4th qtr.	1974 1st qtr.	1974 2nd qtr.	1974 3rd qtr.	1974 4th qtr.	1975 1st qrt.	1975 2nd qtr.	Growth rate per cent per annum 1968/74	Growth per cent 12 months ended Q2 1975/ Q2 1974
Man-made fibres	411	14.5	86.7	91.8	100.0	106.1	107.2	127.3	111.2	125.9	129.3	116.9	116.1	116.6	95.2	89.9	101.4	4.2	−17.4
Spinning and doubling on cotton system (a)	412 part	11.7	81.8	90.3	100.0	103.2	103.4	112.5	90.1	106.6	106.6	88.1	102.8	90.6	79.1	77.9	86.2	1.6	−17.4
Weaving of cotton and man-made fibres	413 part	6.9	108.6	109.2	100.0	95.1	91.6	93.4	91.3	94.2	90.8	74.2	98.4	99.8	92.8	87.3	86.5	−2.8	2.5
Woollen and worsted	414	17.6	111.0	109.6	100.0	93.0	97.7	97.5	87.1	97.7	93.3	85.1	94.8	90.6	77.9	81.8	78.0	−4.0	−11.5
Hosiery and other knitted goods	417	19.0	87.7	97.6	100.0	99.5	99.7	102.8	99.6	101.9	102.3	96.8	105.2	101.1	95.3	94.0	83.4	2.1	−8.0
Carpets	419	8.0	100.7	99.0	100.0	107.8	121.9	125.9	116.0	122.3	119.8	120.4	117.0	114.7	112.0	122.0	114.6	2.4	−3.4
(Order XIII) (b)	411-429	100.0	97.1	100.2	100.0	100.7	103.0	108.6	100.4	106.3	106.3	98.8	106.3	101.7	95.6	94.6	94.4	0.6	−8.6

(a) Includes texturing of man-made continuous filament yarns.
(b) In addition to sectors listed above includes jute, rope, twine and net, lace, narrow fabrics, made-up textiles, textile finishing and other textiles industries. Their combined weight in the total index is 22.3 per cent.

TABLE 3 Production of man-made fibres

Million kilogrammes

								1973		1974				1975		Growth rate per cent per annum	Growth per cent 12 months ended
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	1968/74	Q2 1975/ Q2 1974
Staple fibre																	
Synthetic	124	135	170	166	177	221	196	54	59	53	53	53	37	37	48	7.9	−20.1
Viscose and acetate	173	166	172	170	185	204	160	47	53	51	50	30	29	36	39	1.3	−33.3
Total	297	301	342	336	362	425	356	101	112	104	103	83	66	73	87	−3.1	−26.4
Continuous filament yarn																	
Synthetic	144	156	167	191	196	233	200	54	53	52	51	49	48	42	46	5.6	−11.9
Viscose and acetate	98	97	91	85	68	73	72	17	19	18	21	18	15	15	16	5.0	−14.7
Total	242	253	258	276	264	306	272	71	78	70	72	67	63	57	62	−2.0	−14.4
All man-made fibres																	
Synthetic	268	291	337	357	373	454	396	108	117	105	104	102	85	79	94	6.7	−17.1
Viscose and acetate	271	263	263	255	253	277	232	64	72	69	71	48	44	51	55	−2.5	−28.3
Total	539	554	600	612	626	731	628	172	190	174	175	150	129	130	149	2.6	−21.5

performance was evident in all sectors of the textile industry. For example, output of man-made fibres for the first half year, despite a sharp increase in the second quarter from a very low first quarter figure, was 18 per cent below the corresponding 1974 level and 10 per cent lower than the last six months of 1974. The carpet sector, however, enjoyed a steep rise in production during the first quarter of 1975, possibly reflecting the seasonal interest of consumers in household durables but this improvement was not maintained and total output in the first half year barely reached the level of mid-1974.

Little change in the situation is expected in the near future. There are no signs of an upturn in the textile cycle and the industry, faced with continued competition from imports, remains apprehensive about its prospects. The latest investment intentions survey indicates a further decline in investment by the textile industry. A number of plants have been shut down and there are fears of more closures to come.

Employment (Table 6)

Numbers employed in the textile and clothing (and footwear) industries continued to fall during the first six months of 1975, with mid-June figures 8 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively, below those of a year previous.

Detailed comparison by sectors shows that the effect of depressed demand bore most heavily on the spinning and doubling industry where the reduction in the labour force approached 11 per cent. Numbers recorded as unemployed in the textile and clothing industries rose during the first half of 1975 at a slightly quicker rate than the average increase of 26 per cent for all manufacturing industries. Advance information indicates that redundancies in both industries have risen substantially in the third quarter of the year.

Prices (Table 5)

During the second quarter of 1975 increases of 7 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, in the prices of raw wool and cotton reversed the downward trend evident throughout the previous year. In contrast, the price of man-made fibres, which had risen steeply during 1974, levelled out slightly below the peak reached at the year end. Overall the price index of materials and fuel purchased by the textile industry, which had showed signs of steadying in the latter half of 1974, began to resume its upward climb. By the end of the second quarter of 1975 it had reached a new high level at almost double the 1970 base.

Prices of textile products continued to rise in most sectors, albeit at slightly reduced rates, with the notable exceptions of woven cotton and man-made fibre cloth, which recorded marginal decreases in the second quarter of 1975. Continuing the trend of 1974, prices of textile products and clothing rose far less sharply than those for all manufactured products.

Overseas trade (Tables 7-10)

A substantial drop in fibre imports, reflecting the reduced level of activity in the textile industry resulted in an improvement in the crude trade balance, from a deficit of £66 million in the first half of 1974 to one of £35 million in the comparable period of 1975. Over the same periods the value of imports of textile yarn and fabrics also fell, from £337 million to £332 million at current prices. Coinci-

TABLE 4 Consumption of fibres

Million kilogrammes

						1973		1974				1975		Growth rate per cent per annum	Growth per cent 12 months ended
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	1968/74	Q2 1975/ Q2 1974
In cotton spinning																	
Raw cotton	172	169	165	140	129	126	111	28	30	26	30	27	28	25	26	−6.9	−7.0
Man-made staple fibre																	
Rayon	43	39	33	34	32	36	39	8	10	9	11	10	9	8	9	−1.6	−53.
Other	16	23	32	36	34	37	30	8	9	7	9	7	7	7	8	11.0	−12.1
In top making, wool spinning and felting																	
Wool and animal hair	192	190	166	151	165	149	121	32	35	31	36	28	26	30	31	−7.4	−14.2
Man-made staple fibre	76	80	84	77	86	105	103	24	30	24	30	25	24	24	24	5.2	−10.2

TABLE 5 Prices

Index numbers 1970 = 100

								1973		1974				1975	
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.
Price index numbers of output (home sales):															
All manufactured products	89.9	93.4	100.0	109.0	114.8	123.2	152.0	124.2	129.1	138.3	148.9	156.1	164.9	176.0	186.3
Textile industries	94.1	96.9	100.0	104.9	112.2	131.7	162.2	134.5	142.4	151.6	160.4	166.5	170.1	172.9	175.7
Man-made fibre cloth	93.7	96.0	100.0	106.8	114.8	132.7	172.6	134.1	146.2	152.8	167.0	182.0	188.4	189.8	189.6
Cotton cloth	85.0	91.7	100.0	108.0	117.4	138.9	193.8	144.0	161.2	183.6	192.8	201.0	197.7	190.9	190.6
Worsted cloth	92.1	95.8	100.0	103.9	118.0	173.3	189.8	180.8	183.4	188.0	191.1	191.0	189.0	189.0	201.5
Socks, stockings and tights (inc. pantihose)	100.7	100.9	100.0	100.9	102.3	107.1	119.4	107.3	108.8	112.1	118.2	122.1	125.0	129.6	132.5
Knitted underwear and nightwear	93.0	97.1	100.0	104.2	111.1	126.8	154.7	128.0	137.5	141.5	148.9	158.7	169.5	174.1	175.4
Knitted outerwear	97.0	98.2	100.0	101.5	105.3	119.0	140.8	122.0	125.6	132.9	138.2	144.8	147.1	153.6	156.5
Carpets	93.6	96.6	100.0	104.9	111.7	130.2	153.1	132.7	135.1	141.5	150.6	158.8	161.6	169.5	171.2
Made-up clothing	94.3	96.4	100.0	106.4	112.3	119.4	138.3	119.8	124.9	131.1	135.2	140.2	146.7	152.6	156.1
Price index numbers of material and fuel purchased:															
Textile industries	97.2	98.6	100.0	104.8	119.0	166.7	190.0	173.0	177.4	192.2	191.2	190.0	186.4	189.8	198.9
Commodities wholly or mainly imported															
Raw cotton	104.4	96.4	100.0	112.9	116.6	204.2	229.5	246.6	282.5	293.8	228.9	212.9	182.3	165.8	188.6
Raw wool	117.6	112.4	100.0	94.9	156.3	332.3	250.3	337.1	319.5	308.5	264.9	232.2	195.7	194.0	208.9
Man-made fibres	97.9	98.5	100.0	103.1	103.6	105.8	137.9	106.9	107.4	111.5	136.5	149.5	154.1	152.7	152.2

TABLE 6 Employment in textiles (a)

Thousands

	MLH	Sept. 1973	Dec. 1973	Mar. 1974	June 1974	Sept. 1974	Dec. 1974	Mar. 1975	June 1975
Great Britain									
Textiles	411-429	553.5	555.6	544.6	545.9	544.6	530.3	510.5	503.8
Production of man-made fibres	411	35.7	36.9	37.5	38.7	38.6	36.8	35.4	34.7
Spinning and doubling on the cotton and flax systems	412	61.8	61.3	59.4	59.5	59.5	58.1	54.5	53.2
Weaving of cotton, linen and man-made fibres	413	48.5	47.9	46.9	47.1	47.4	46.7	45.5	45.0
Woollen and worsted	414	105.5	106.2	101.3	101.1	99.2	94.9	92.3	93.4
Hosiery and other knitted goods	417	126.1	125.8	124.5	124.9	126.2	124.7	117.6	115.0
Carpets	419	42.9	43.4	42.8	42.5	42.0	40.9	39.5	38.9
Textile finishing	423	51.5	51.4	50.3	49.8	50.1	48.3	46.9	45.9
Clothing and footwear	441-450	412.0	415.2	406.2	404.3	404.6	403.8	393.9	389.4

(a) Employees in employment at middle of each month.

dentally the value of exports declined from £384 million to £340 million, leaving the crude trade balance for this area at the depressed level of £7 million. Notably, exports of continuous filament yarn showed little sign of recovery to the record level reached in the second quarter of 1974, and the high level of carpet exports in 1974 has not been maintained into 1975. Substantial reductions in imports of cotton yarn and cloth both in value and quantity were offset by the increase in imports of man-made fibre woven fabrics.

TABLE 7 Crude trade balance (a)

£ million at current prices

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1973 3rd qtr.	1973 4th qtr.	1974 1st qtr.	1974 2nd qtr.	1974 3rd qtr.	1974 4th qtr.	1975 1st qtr.	1975 2nd qtr.
Textile fibres (Div. 26)															
Exports	93.2	101.8	96.4	87.3	108.1	172.1	201.8	40.1	47.1	55.0	61.1	48.7	37.0	43.2	52.1
Imports	219.4	210.4	183.9	150.0	213.7	322.4	310.5	69.9	75.1	88.9	92.8	72.2	56.6	56.1	74.2
Balance	−126.2	−108.6	−87.6	−62.7	−105.6	−150.3	−108.7	−29.8	−28.0	−33.9	−31.7	−23.5	−19.6	−12.9	−22.1
Textile yarns, fabrics, etc. (Div. 65)															
Exports	309.3	360.6	396.8	425.8	445.4	589.5	745.8	142.4	164.6	179.5	204.6	178.6	183.1	165.1	174.5
Imports	231.2	238.7	256.4	324.9	369.7	514.9	688.2	125.9	148.0	169.5	167.9	180.0	170.8	166.8	166.0
Balance	+78.1	+121.9	+140.4	+100.9	+75.7	+74.6	+57.6	+16.5	+16.6	+10.0	+36.7	−1.4	+12.3	−1.7	+8.5
Clothing (Div. 84)															
Exports	84.5	108.5	123.1	129.5	144.3	179.6	230.0	50.7	56.4	44.3	50.8	66.2	68.7	52.5	54.8
Imports	110.1	124.5	129.4	178.2	218.8	333.6	402.4	89.5	97.1	105.6	102.1	102.5	92.2	111.0	125.1
Balance	−25.6	−16.0	−6.3	−48.7	−74.5	−154.0	−172.4	−38.8	−40.7	−61.3	−51.3	−36.3	−23.5	−58.5	−70.3

(a) Imports cif, exports fob.

TABLE 8 Imports

£ million at current prices (cif)

	Textile fibres (Div. 26)			Textile yarns, fabrics and made-up articles (Div. 65)										Clothing (Div. 84)		
	Man-made fibres, tow and waste (266)	Wool tops (262.8)	Total textile fibres	Woollen and worsted yarns (651.2)	Cotton yarns and thread (651.3 and .4)	Continuous filament yarns (part 651.6 and 651.7)	Spun man-made fibre yarns (part 651.6 and 651.7)	Cotton woven fabrics (652)	Woollen and worsted woven fabrics (653.2)	Man-made fibre woven fabrics (653.5 and 6)	Knitted fabrics (653.7)	Carpets (657.5 and .6)	Total yarns, fabrics etc.	Made-up clothing (841.1 and .2)	Hosiery and knitted garments (part* 841.4)	Total clothing
1968	17.4	2.3	219.4	2.0	8.8	25.4	3.6	67.3	8.8	33.0	7.0	18.8	231.2	58.4	44.9	110.1
1969	15.3	3.2	210.4	2.6	9.1	38.0	4.8	58.0	7.6	36.4	9.6	18.1	238.7	68.8	49.0	124.5
1970	13.3	3.3	183.9	3.9	9.8	38.4	5.6	53.5	7.6	42.2	13.0	20.1	256.4	70.7	51.4	129.4
1971	16.9	2.8	150.0	4.1	10.2	54.2	7.3	70.4	7.9	57.1	16.6	22.0	324.9	99.6	68.8	178.2
1972	24.9	4.3	213.7	6.3	12.5	52.8	9.2	74.2	8.2	78.6	14.0	28.0	369.7	123.7	82.7	218.8
1973	35.4	5.3	322.4	11.0	15.5	70.7	17.0	103.5	11.8	115.3	12.7	41.4	514.9	197.8	112.3	333.6
1974	57.2	4.8	310.5	9.5	42.8	105.2	30.2	130.5	13.5	154.5	16.4	44.9	688.2	243.9	134.1	402.4
1973																
3rd qtr.	9.0	1.5	69.9	2.4	3.7	17.4	4.6	25.7	2.9	28.7	2.9	10.0	125.9	52.7	29.8	89.5
4th qtr.	9.7	2.0	75.1	2.8	5.1	21.0	5.0	29.1	3.1	34.5	3.5	11.6	148.0	56.8	32.3	97.1
1974																
1st qtr.	11.8	1.2	88.9	2.2	10.7	17.8	6.5	42.3	3.2	37.6	3.5	10.7	169.5	64.3	35.6	105.6
2nd qtr.	14.7	1.6	92.8	2.7	11.4	26.7	7.8	31.1	3.8	35.3	3.9	10.3	167.9	63.4	32.9	102.1
3rd qtr.	18.2	1.0	72.2	2.2	11.1	34.6	8.3	28.4	3.4	39.4	4.6	12.5	180.0	61.5	34.9	102.5
4th qtr.	12.5	1.1	56.6	2.4	9.6	26.1	7.6	28.7	3.1	42.2	4.4	11.4	170.8	54.7	30.7	92.2
1975																
1st qtr.	10.4	1.0	56.1	2.2	6.6	20.7	5.9	31.7	3.2	44.5	3.6	12.7	166.8	68.0	37.2	111.0
2nd qtr.	10.8	0.8	74.2	3.0	6.8	20.6	6.8	29.8	5.0	41.4	4.3	11.7	166.0	79.4	39.5	125.1

* Less 841.45
Source: Overseas Trade Statistics.

TABLE 9 Exports

£ million at current prices (fob)

	Textile fibres (Div. 26)			Textile yarns, fabrics and made-up articles (Div. 65)										Clothing (Div. 84)		
	Man-made fibres, tow and waste (266)	Wool tops (262.8)	Total textile fibres	Woollen and worsted yarns (651.2)	Cotton yarns and thread (651.3 and .4)	Continuous filament yarns (part 651.6 and 651.7)	Spun man-made fibre yarns (part 651.6 and 651.7)	Cotton woven fabrics (652)	Woollen and worsted woven fabrics (653.2)	Man-made fibre woven fabrics (653.5 and 6)	Knitted fabrics (653.7)	Carpets (657.5 and .6)	Total yarns, fabrics etc.	Made-up clothing (841.1 and .2)	Hosiery and knitted garments (part* 841.4)	Total clothing
1968	33.6	24.0	93.2	20.4	10.7	46.1	4.3	28.2	66.5	20.6	11.4	29.5	309.3	45.7	26.2	84.5
1969	42.3	26.6	101.8	23.3	11.4	53.7	7.0	28.4	71.3	27.5	21.2	37.3	360.6	58.5	34.1	108.5
1970	47.0	20.4	96.4	23.4	11.0	68.6	8.6	26.7	70.1	32.3	38.9	39.4	396.8	60.5	45.0	123.1
1971	45.5	16.3	87.3	23.3	10.1	80.4	9.6	28.6	62.8	31.6	54.4	43.5	425.8	61.8	49.0	129.5
1972	56.5	19.8	108.1	27.3	11.7	83.8	10.9	29.0	66.9	37.4	43.2	51.6	445.4	70.2	53.5	144.3
1973	77.7	38.1	172.1	37.0	17.0	110.0	18.6	39.5	91.5	49.9	43.1	78.2	589.5	86.9	68.0	179.6
1974	118.7	26.2	201.8	41.6	22.0	136.5	28.1	52.0	106.6	68.6	44.9	100.6	745.8	113.4	81.8	230.0
1973																
3rd qtr.	18.5	9.4	40.1	9.1	3.9	25.0	4.4	9.2	24.0	12.0	10.4	19.0	142.4	24.5	19.5	50.7
4th qtr.	23.6	8.3	47.1	9.4	4.6	28.9	6.1	12.1	24.6	15.3	10.5	23.9	164.6	26.3	22.1	56.4
1974																
1st qtr.	29.3	8.6	55.0	10.5	5.0	37.4	6.9	11.9	24.6	15.8	10.8	24.5	179.5	22.0	15.4	44.3
2nd qtr.	35.7	7.8	61.1	12.1	5.7	41.5	8.0	13.6	29.8	18.4	11.6	26.9	204.6	26.2	16.5	50.8
3rd qtr.	33.1	4.9	48.7	9.6	5.7	29.2	6.6	12.6	26.4	16.8	11.3	23.1	178.6	31.6	24.9	66.2
4th qtr.	20.6	4.9	37.0	9.4	5.6	28.4	6.6	13.9	25.8	17.6	11.2	26.1	183.1	33.6	25.0	68.7
1975																
1st qtr.	26.2	5.2	43.2	8.3	4.6	26.9	5.9	12.1	21.9	17.6	8.2	22.2	165.1	27.0	17.2	52.5
2nd qtr.	32.1	7.0	52.1	9.4	4.4	28.0	5.9	10.7	24.4	16.7	11.8	22.2	174.5	29.8	16.8	54.8

* Less 841.45
Source: Overseas Trade Statistics.

TABLE 10 Imports of raw materials

£ million at current prices (cif)

	Greasy wool (262.1)		Degreased wool (262.2)		Fine animal hair (262.3)		Raw cotton* (263.1)	
	mn kg	£m	mn kg	£m	mn kg	£m	mn kg	£m
1968	181	73	66	26	13	11	193	51
1969	171	73	64	26	15	14	162	43
1970	149	58	57	22	10	9	167	44
1971	99	33	62	21	9	5	142	41
1972	130	56	77	23	18	13	137	44
1973	95	93	56	55	15	26	171	66
1974	65	67	56	48	9	21	93	61
1973 3rd qtr.	14	15	15	15	3	6	38	15
4th qtr.	15	17	8	9	3	7	41	21
1974 1st qtr.	23	26	..	13	2	5	28	18
2nd qtr.	20	21	..	15	3	8	27	18
3rd qtr.	16	13	..	13	2	4	16	11
4th qtr.	6	7	..	7	2	4	22	14
1975 1st qtr.	19	13	8	6	2	3	23	11
2nd qtr.	29	19	16	12	3	6	32	16

* 1968-69 includes small amount of carded or combed cotton.
Source: Overseas Trade Statistics.

After a steady improvement in the crude trade balance for knitted garments and made-up clothing throughout 1974, the position deteriorated in the first half of 1975. Imports advanced to record levels but exports gained only slightly with the result that the deficit for the half year was 14 per cent larger than the comparable 1974 figure. Higher average values, however, accounted for much of the increase in imports and exports. Nearly one half of the £28 million increase in total clothing imports was registered by EEC countries mainly France and Italy.

Output in the wool textile industry

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally adjusted index of production) in August 1975 was 16 per cent lower than in August 1974. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the period January-August 1975 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 12 per cent less than in the same period last year; deliveries of worsted yarn (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 15 per cent lower. Production of wool and hair tops was 3 per cent less and that of man-made fibre tops was 18 per cent less.

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn (†)	Worsted yarn (§)	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets) (‡)		Blankets (†)
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kilos					million sq. metres		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1973 1st quarter	40.7	19.9	13.3	36.8	27.8	25.8	24.5	8.6
2nd quarter	34.9	16.6	13.9	33.4	24.6	27.2	21.7	7.3
3rd quarter	29.2	13.0	13.0	29.8	21.8	24.1	19.9	6.7
4th quarter	31.8	12.9	15.6	35.2	25.7	27.2	22.2	8.1
1974 1st quarter	28.4	11.9	13.3	29.5	21.5	22.7	20.9	7.8
2nd quarter	33.6	12.8	15.5	36.7	23.5	25.8	21.2	7.2
3rd quarter	25.9	10.0	14.0	28.0	20.6	23.0	19.4	6.4
4th quarter	24.7	9.1	12.0	28.5	21.6	20.6	21.2	6.8
1975 1st quarter	27.3	11.2	12.8	29.4	20.4	17.7	20.7	7.6
2nd quarter	29.1	11.9	12.7	29.7	19.4	22.5	19.2	5.0
1974 January	8.7	3.6	3.8	9.2	6.8	7.4	6.7	2.3
February	8.6	3.6	4.0	8.8	6.9	7.0	6.6	2.9
March	11.1	4.7	5.5	11.5	7.8	8.3	7.6	2.6
April	11.0	4.4	5.9	12.0	8.1	8.3	7.0	2.4
May	10.9	4.2	4.8	12.1	7.6	9.0	7.1	2.5
June	11.7	4.2	4.8	12.6	7.8	8.5	7.1	2.3
July	9.2	4.0	6.1	9.3	7.4	7.6	7.0	1.6
August	7.7	2.5	3.7	9.0	6.4	7.5	5.7	2.3
September	9.0	3.6	4.2	9.7	6.8	7.9	6.8	2.6
October	8.6	3.3	4.9	10.1	8.4	8.2	7.9	2.5
November	8.4	3.0	3.8	9.6	7.2	7.2	6.7	2.5
December	7.7	2.8	3.4	8.8	6.0	5.3	6.4	1.8
1975 January	8.9	3.6	4.3	9.9	7.0	6.1	7.3	2.3
February	9.1	3.8	4.2	9.5	6.4	5.6	6.6	2.9
March	9.3	3.9	4.4	10.1	7.0	6.1	6.8	2.5
April	9.6	4.1	4.5	9.8	6.9	7.0	6.5	1.8
May	9.3	3.5	3.7	9.9	6.0	7.2	6.3	1.7
June	10.2	4.3	4.5	10.0	6.4	8.2	6.4	1.6
July	9.0	4.5	3.8	8.0	5.1	6.7	6.4	1.9
August		2.7	2.2	7.5	4.7	5.9	4.5	1.7

(†) Estimated. (‡) Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components. (§) From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the woollen and worsted yarn headings. In August deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.6 million kilos.

Production in the cotton industry

Statistics issued by the Textile Statistics Bureau show that in the period January to August 1975 the amount of cloth woven was 1 per cent higher than in the same period last year. Production of single yarn decreased by 11 per cent and doubled yarn decreased by 8 per cent.

Production in the cotton industry

Annual totals and weekly averages

	Single yarn (†)		Doubled yarn		Woven cloth	
	Cotton yarn (‡)	Spun man-made yarns and mixture yarn, inc. waste	Cotton yarn	Other	Cotton	Man-made fibre and mixtures
	million kg.				million metres	
1968	171.2	67.5	49.9	52.0	668.2	507.3
1969	166.2	73.2	46.8	60.9	661.5	538.1
1970	158.7	77.4	43.2	57.3	627.6	484.3
1971	133.0	83.3	85.0		559.1	479.8
1972	121.4	81.7	75.4		513.0	469.8
1973	115.4	92.5	82.1		453.2	502.3
1974	101.3	87.7	74.7		409.5	505.3
1974 January*	1.6	1.4	1.1		6.6	6.8
February	1.7	1.5	1.2		7.1	7.9
March	2.2	2.0	1.6		8.6	10.6
April	2.0	1.9	1.6		8.0	10.5
May*	2.3	2.1	1.7		8.6	10.7
June	2.0	1.9	1.5		9.0	11.2
July*	1.7	1.4	1.3		5.4	7.8
August	2.2	2.0	1.6		8.6	10.8
September	1.8	1.5	1.3		6.8	9.9
October*	2.2	1.7	1.6		9.0	11.4
November	2.2	1.7	1.6		9.5	11.1
December	1.6	1.3	1.2		7.7	8.6
1975 January*	1.8	1.5	1.4		8.2	9.7
February	1.9	1.6	1.5		8.8	10.7
March	1.7	1.3	1.3		8.3	9.7
April*	1.8	1.6	1.2		7.7	9.4
May	2.1	1.7	1.5		8.1	10.0
June	1.7	1.6	1.3		8.7	10.1
July*	1.5	1.1	1.1		5.4	7.2
August	1.9	1.5	1.3		8.0	9.4

(†) Spun in the cotton industry. (‡) Including yarns wholly of cotton waste and mixture yarn of cotton and cotton waste. * Average of five weeks.

Statistics on retail trading in the West Midlands

A statistical report on retail trading in the West Midlands* is the last of 10 area analyses of information from the 1971 Census of Distribution and Other Services to be issued by the Business Statistics Office.

The statistics, covering Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, are based on the situation as it was in 1971 and do not take account of the changes under the Local Government Act 1972. They are concerned mainly with retail trading but include some information on hairdressing and footwear repairing. Detailed tables show retail outlets by kind of business and where possible, form of organisation for all towns in the West Midlands with a population of 20,000 or more and where appropriate also for the town centres. There are total figures for each county and for the towns and rural areas within each county.

More detailed information for rural areas and for towns with smaller populations is available in a set of 59 special unpublished tables available at £1.25 plus VAT for up to five tables and 25p plus VAT for each additional table direct from the Business Statistics Office, (Census of Distribution), Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent, NPT 1XG (Tel: 0633 56111 Ext 2000) from whom further information about the Census may also be obtained.

* Business Monitor SD 19 available price £1.70 from Her Majesty's Stationery Office bookshops, through book sellers or by mail order direct from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

Energy trends: consumption falls

Total inland energy consumption – on a primary fuel input basis – was over 13 per cent lower in August than a year ago. This is stated in the October issue of *Energy Trends*, the Department of Energy's monthly statistical bulletin, published last week.

The bulletin adds that, after adjustment for seasonality and the effects of temperature, the difference narrowed to about 10 per cent, with an implied annual rate of total consumption of 310 million tons coal equivalent, the lowest in any month since March 1974.

Petroleum, down by 16 per cent, registered the major decline but natural gas, for the third month running, was also below the level of last year – although the fall was marginally smaller than in the previous month.

Undistributed coal stocks rose by 1.3 million tons during September and were accompanied by a further small increase at power stations where, at the beginning of winter, stocks standing at 18 million tons are about 4½ million tons higher than at the corresponding time last year.

Total coal consumption in September was 10 per cent below that of the same month last year, a decline of about the same order as that noted in each of the three previous months. Deep-mined output in September declined by 3 per cent, compared with September 1974, the fall in output of 340,000 tons being attributable to substantially greater losses resulting from extra holidays. Output per man-shift overall was over 3 per cent lower than a year ago.

The amount of gas sent out in August fell below the level of a year ago for the third month running. *Energy Trends* says it is probable that – apart from the warm weather during this period – this results mainly from reduced industrial demand.

Total electricity supplied during August fell to a level 8 per cent below that of a year ago, mainly due to reduced demand by industry – although the much warmer weather of August this year, combined with economy measures taken by consumers, may also have contributed to the overall decline.

Deliveries of petroleum products in August, which were a fifth lower than in August last year, were substantially affected, says *Energy Trends*, by the very warm weather and the low level of industrial activity. Total deliveries, at just over 5 million tons, were the lowest recorded in a single month for eight years.

Stocks of oil held by oil companies show a slight but steady rise – from 22.5 million tons in July to 22.9 million tons in September. However, the estimated endurance levels continued – as is normal – to fall steeply in anticipation of higher seasonal demand in the coming winter months.

Official reserves in October

The UK official reserves fell by $146 million during October, after accruals of foreign currency borrowing by the public sector under the exchange cover scheme of $7 million. At the end of October they stood at $5,713 million.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Business Monitor

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PQ 339.1 Mining machinery for second quarter 1975

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PQ 399.3 Safes, locks, latches, keys and springs for second quarter 1975

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PQ 413 Weaving of cotton, linen and other man-made fibres for second quarter 1975

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Report on the Census of Distribution 1971 (including postage):

SD 19 Area Tables West Midlands region (£1.88½p)

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PA 102 Stone and slate quarrying and mining (56½p)

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Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 to SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced, and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Industry Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, or the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

Cinema admissions and takings in July

During July, counted as a four-week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.29 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.41 million. The complete figures for July 1974 were 2.87 and £1.40, million respectively.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 31 October 1975.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Yellow Rose	BR/E 38299/1/11/80	16	27 October	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Global Films Ltd. and Queensway Promotions Ltd.
The Golden Gate	BR/E 38300/1/11/80	15	27 October	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Global Films Ltd. and Queensway Promotions Ltd.
Wildlife USA	BR/E 38303/1/11/80	28	30 October	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Legend Of The Werewolf	BR/E 38304/1/11/80	90	30 October	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Tyburn Film Productions Ltd.
Great Expectations	BR/E 38305/1/11/80	124	31 October	Scotia-Barber Distributors Ltd.	Transcontinental Film Productions (London) Ltd.
Five Fingers Of Death	BR/E 38307/1/11/80	90	31 October	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Movietone News 2421	BR/E 38136/1/11/80	8	31 October	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Island Of Crime	EC 38295/1/11/80	85	27 October	Ranworth Film Services Ltd.	Clesi Cinematografica, Rome
Sins Within The Family	EC 38296/1/11/80	80	27 October	Eagle Films Ltd.	Flaminia Produzioni Cinematografiche Srl, Rome
A Venial Sin	EC 38302/1/11/80	96	30 October	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Clesi Cinematografica, Rome
			FOREIGN		
The Bruce Lee Story	F 38292	90	27 October	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd.	Winthrop Amusements Inc., Massachusetts
Somebody's Stolen Our Russian Spy	F 38293	84	27 October	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd.	Paudex Distribution SA, Switzerland
Gunman In Town	F 38294	89	27 October	Ranworth Film Services Ltd.	Devon Films, Rome, and Copercines, Madrid
Permission To Kill	F 38297	96	27 October	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Saschafilm GmbH, Vienna
The Ultimate Warrior	F 38298	94	27 October	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Sequoia Pictures Inc., California
Arnold	F 38301	95	27 October	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Bing Crosby Productions, California
Framed	F 38306	101	31 October	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Mort Briskin Productions, California

Amendments to the Register

The playing time of the film 'On Any Sunday' (F 36045), registered on 13 March 1972, has been amended to read '(A) 88 (B) 79' minutes.

The registration number of the film 'Life Size', registered on 20 October 1975, has been amended to EC 38285/25/10/80 and the maker's name to Uranus Productions, Fox Europa, Films 66, Paris, Jet Film, Barcelona, and Verona Film, Rome.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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Air transport: trade by air (6M)	16 May 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	31 Oct. 1975
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	3 Oct. 1975
Catering trades turnover (M)	17 Oct. 1975
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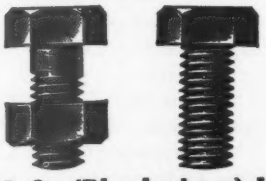

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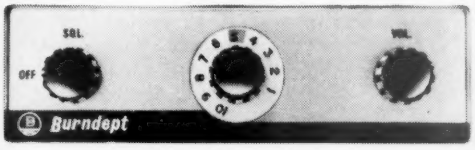

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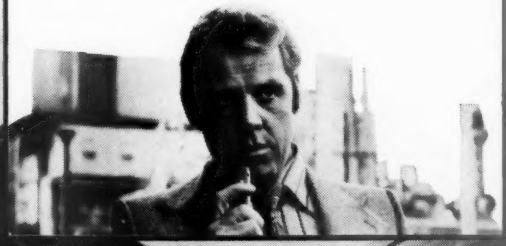

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ISBN 0 11 724229 2